

THE GATEWAY

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U of A deficit likely to increase due to provincial budget cuts

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Tensions around the University of Alberta's budget have reached a fever pitch as rumours circulate that the \$59-million deficit could increase by as much as \$20 million.

The news was given to the leaders of Alberta's 26 postsecondary institutions from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Technologies Deputy Minister Annette Trimbee shortly after the budget's release.

But despite tense posturing from the U of A's Students' Union and administration, the exact details of the additional cuts remain nebulous.

"We know that the University's been in contact with the government. We've heard numbers ranging from \$10–20 million, and that it will affect enrolment planning or enrolment growth, so we know that this will likely result in a cut to positions available to students in certain programs," said Zach Fentiman, Students' Union president.

The only person at the University who is able to speak about the budget deficit, Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein, was unavailable for comment, but explained the situation in an interdepartmental correspondence on February 17.

"Unfortunately, the emerging budget picture is not as good as we had initially expected," he wrote.

Traditionally, he explained, the University receives funding from the government in the form of an operating grant, and additional funding streams. However, this year, the operating grant will be frozen from increase, and the remaining funding streams for postsecondary institutions in Alberta have been consolidated into a new grant,

the Campus Alberta Fresh Start Grant.

Unfortunately, once consolidated, this grant did not equal the sum of its parts, with a total reduction of 4.5 per cent in provincial funding, or a \$27-million decrease in the money available to institutions. Amrhein announced that the University is anticipating across-the-board budget cuts of five per cent.

"There are a lot of numbers being thrown around, but the important thing that you need to know is that the Ministry is still meeting with institutions to finalize grants."

KEVIN DONNAN
SPOKESPERSON, MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

In addition to current proposals, such as market modified tuition for professional faculties, the \$550 Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security Fee fee, and the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, the University is considering several solutions to fill this new fiscal hole, including a five-day personal leave program for its staff.

"In their own personal circumstances, if [staff] have the ability to take the financial hit, they can offer up an additional five days [without pay]," explained Walter Dixon, president of the Association of Academic Staff, which represents instructors and librarians.

PLEASE SEE BUDGET ♦ PAGE 2



PETE YEE

LAYING OUT THEIR CAUSES Mark McCormack, Steven Dollansky, and Beverly Eastham argue the Yes side of the referendum issues at the SU elections residence forum. For more see page 2.

Presidential candidates highlight deficit as defining campaign issue

The President is responsible for the overall affairs within the SU. Their portfolio includes advocating for students, creating outreach opportunities to the surrounding community, and ensuring that there is a student-focused environment on campus.

Compiled by Simon Yackulic

1 Why are you running for president of the Students' Union?

Adam Zepp: First of all, I should say that I'm a very good friend of [former president] Kory [Mathewson] and have been since we were in kindergarten. So I spent a lot of time with him during his tenure as president. And I thought that there were some really amazing things that you could do in a one-year term. I think that I can make some good changes for students, and there are a lot of problems that I can fix.

Nick Dehod: I think that right now



PETE YEE

AIMING FOR THE TOP Seth (left), Dehod (centre), and Zepp explain why they should head the SU Executive in 2010/11.

students are facing some exceptional times, and as somebody who's had experience working with the SU for the past year, I have something to offer that will help us through the challenges ahead. Not only do we need somebody to help us through these financial challenges that the University is experiencing, but the president needs to have experience with the organi-

zation and how it works [...] The one thing that would be very important next year would be balancing short-term demands of the position with providing long-term vision.

Vikram Seth: There are a couple main reasons. The first one, I have to go to engagement [...] The Students' Union defines itself by four pil-

lars: advocacy, services, businesses, and space. What I find fascinating with those four is that they're not that accessible to students. The most accessible aspect of the Students' Union is programming and events. It should be one of the main pillars. We need increased engagement over what we do on campus, and also going past that, supporting the events

that already exist, but helping student groups with events they're already hosting. I think that's the main thing: engagement.

The other reason I'm running for president: after this last year, we need somebody who's really strong, who's ready to fight, who has that leadership, who has that fight. We need somebody who is willing to say "no more" especially on the tuition issue. I feel we wasted a lot of time this year. The Students' Union has known about it since October, we could have created a plan a while back, [instead of] attacking it now.

The third reason is that I simply care about our campus. I have some friends in the University of Texas and I see how much campus pride they have. I see every single person wearing a University of Texas hat, with Longhorns. I want that. It goes back to how engaged people are with their Students' Union. If you're not engaged with the people who represent you, then we're doing something wrong.

PLEASE SEE PRESIDENT ♦ PAGE 3



Transcontinental

Phil Head follows an ancient familial trail across the Siberian north, from Beijing to Moscow.

FEATURE, PAGE 12-13



Wingman essential

Edmontonian Derek Scott has been crowned Canada's Ultimate Wingman by Pizza Hut.

A&E, PAGE 14

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Candidate forums begin at Lister Hall

SEAN STEELS
Senior News Editor

Students' Union election candidates got their first chance to publicly extol themselves and their campaigns as the first electoral forum unfolded at Lister Hall on Tuesday night.

Presidential candidates speeches were dominated by issues of student accountability and tuition. Additionally, presidential candidate Vikram Seth promised an increase in SU programmed events, while candidate and current Vice President (Student Life) Nick Dehod took a different route announcing student mental health as a priority over the upcoming year.

Presenting a tangible solution to the budget deficit, candidate Adam Zepp announced an electricity-saving campaign to be presented to administration.

"I'd like to start a campaign to challenge the administration to cut their electricity budget," he said.

The race for Vice President (Academic) between James Eastham and Thomas L'Abbé took a friendly tone as both advocated for strengthening of faculty associations. However, Eastham also put forward the idea for a permanent, paid position at the FA level, while L'Abbé thought increasing experiential learning opportunities, like practicums and internships warranted greater attention.

Vice President (External) candidates presented a wide variety of ideas for the upcoming year, most of those concerned with advocating against the current budge deficit. Candidate Aden Murphy moved that the decision to implement such a fee should go to referendum before being allowed, as are other non-academic fees. Jaiman Chin took

a different approach, working the crowd on the fees.

"We've got \$550 good-for-nothing fee [...] We need to focus on things that advocacy can do to reduce financial burden to students now," Chin said.

Jon Mastel expressed strong desire to hold the University accountable after they are put in place.

"Fees kind of suck, but if you know where it's going, we know that our money is being used appropriately. This is a unique opportunity to govern the future implementation of non-instructional fees," he said.

Once again this year, Zach Fentiman is the only one in the race for the Operations and Finance position. He outlined an effort to "open up the portfolio" to outside input if he is re-elected. He also emphasized continuation of a SUB vision plan, and increasing the quality of student services.

Kayla McCarthy and Rory Tighe debated for the right to call themselves Vice President (Student Life). McCarthy's campaign focused on building connections with students, increasing sustainability, and advocacy on non-academic issues, a similar list to that of Tighe, who targeted the re-evaluation of campus events like Campus Cup and partnering with student organizations in place of sustainability.

The race to be Board of Governors representative, one substantially less well-known to students as admitted by candidates Craig Turner and Sangram Hansra, saw equal parts debate on the intricacies and basics of advocating at the University's Board of Governors.

Hansra focused on increasing publicity of the portfolio through use of social media and video blogs to give students "unparalleled access to the Board of Governors position."

Turner closed by attacking the University's new [Common Student Space, Sustainability, and Security Fee] fee as a university imposed "tax" that would need long-term review and regulation.

"This \$550 fee is ridiculous. It's a tax because the University is stuck in a position of deficit," he said, "and I don't think they should just be taxing the easiest body."

The night was not without chances for each of this year's three referenda to sway students. All three Yes sides were present and unopposed in their contest to pass, but all three were questioned just the same by students concerning their effectiveness and direct benefit to students.

Mark McCormack, on the Yes side for Millenium Villages — an international poverty reduction program devoted to strengthening the local economies of villages in Africa.

"We need to link ourselves to lives, so that we're not crying for ourselves, people are crying for us when tuition increases and makes it harder for us to do these initiatives," he said.

Beverly Eastham presented for approval of the new U-Pass plan, which is now set to include more late-night hours, the potential for late-night exam schedules.

Current Board of Governors Representative Steven Dollansky was present in favour of the PAW Centre Yes side.

"What our proposal offers is a fantastic return on investment, but it does it in a way that is very, very responsible. The project, the facility itself, is a \$66-million facility. Student contribution will be only \$29 million of that. Students won't pay a cent on the PAW Centre until it's built and operational."

Budget not finalized

BUDGET • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Those optional days are in addition to six furlough days, or unpaid days off which will occur over the December 2010 break, an agreement finalized by the Association earlier this month.

"Even though we were in a ratified contract agreement until the end of 2011, we felt we had to do something. Basically, [the furlough] amounts to \$8 million in foregone money," Dixon noted.

The cuts to government funding hurt all parts of the institution, he added.

"You're kind of caught in the middle as students, being asked to help solve this problem. We certainly have sympathy for that," he said.

"But I hope that the students will recognize that this is something that we did voluntarily, we didn't have a gun to our head. We came to the table and basically gave up this money to help solve the problem."

The government has remained tight-lipped on the increase's specifics, citing the need to keep calm and avoid confusion while working through the deficit.

"There are a lot of numbers being thrown around, but the important thing that you need to know is that the ministry is still meeting with institutions to finalize grants," said Kevin Donnan, spokesperson for Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology.

"Until the actual institutions have their grant letters in hand, it would be inappropriate for me or anyone else, to comment on an institution's funding. That would just lead to more confusion, which no one needs right now."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Robert Frigon and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, an American woman was recently convicted for trading two children in her care for \$175 and a cockatoo.

When was the last time you felt underappreciated?

**Timo Suomi**
Phys. Ed. IV**Mary McEwen**
Phys. Ed. IV**Vincent Chan**
Phys. Ed. IV**Will Lampe**
Phys. Ed. III

Probably when I made [Mary] dinner last night.

Probably when I stayed up until 3 a.m. editing [Timo's] essay.

I let a friend sleep over at my house once when he was drunk, and all he did was leave a skid mark in my toilet.

[To his girlfriend] You never tell me you love me anymore.

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Fee increase opposition, institutional organization top candidate priorities

PRESIDENT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
2 What distinguishes you from the other candidates?

Zepp: I think [Dehod] will almost represent the status quo kind of candidate. I don't think he's going to go for a lot of change in the governance structure of the Students' Union.

As for Seth, I'm going to have a harder time differentiating myself and saying that I'm better than him, but I think that I can say that I'm more of a team player — based on my experience with him on the board of Rotaract.

Dehod: As someone who has gone a long way from [not caring about the SU at all] to actually getting involved as an Executive member of

have the flexibility to allow someone coming into this position to work on their goals while still — because the U of A is growing rapidly, the SU is only a \$10-million institution while the U of A is a billion-dollar institution — thinking about how we're going to grow to represent students at a large institution. So I think that that's something that's critical next year and I think that that's something that we can look over during the summer. The other thing that I think we have to look at, next year there is the chance that staff might have to take furlough days because of the budget situation we are in, and I also think that mental health is something that we don't talk about enough on this campus. I think that you can see students and friends who are stressed out from exams or working multiple jobs, and I think that

student organizations will have different priorities, so we'll always have that because it's a federal lobby group. However, federal lobbying groups like CASA still provide benefits to students because for us, one, it's a small investment of our organization which is less than one percent of our annual budget. And two, it provides us with economies of scale: it would be more costly for us to continually fly our Vice President (External) and other members of staff to lobby on our behalf with the federal government when we have an office set up there to do that work for us. The other thing is that CASA provides us an opportunity to network with our peers on a federal level which is hugely beneficial for us.

Seth: We need to re-assess it. When you're part of an organization that is so massive and so encompassing, you need to periodically re-assess it to figure out how effective it is. If I was president, one of the first things I would do would be to take a reassessment of how effective CASA is and is it worth our \$63,000 a year. That has to be the first movement there.

The University administration compares us to the 12 other biggest schools in Canada, together we are the group of 13. These schools, a lot of them have pulled out of CASA or are not a part of it for some other reason. And I understand why people are frustrated with CASA because

“We should be stronger, firmer, and more concise as an Executive, when we're doing talks with the administration.”

ADAM ZEPP
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

the Students' Union, I think I have not only an understanding of why a student might be disenfranchised, but I also have an understanding of how the organization works, where our strengths and weaknesses are, and I think that perspective allows me to give a reasonable approach to how to be president next year.

Seth: Between [Zepp] and I, I feel a lot of it comes down to experience. I served on a lot of student groups, on a lot of executives. I spent a lot of time learning this campus in and out. I feel I have more experience than Adam Zepp.

[...] Between [Dehod] and I, I'm ready to make those tough decisions, those strong decisions. When dealing with administration over tuition, I know that there were many moments that we should have fought harder. Sometimes it just takes that person who is tough and strong and ready to fight. And this next year, there's going to be a moment where the next president is going to have to fight as hard as they can to get rid of this new user fee. That's one of the reasons why I'm a better candidate than [Dehod] is — I have that leadership quality, I have that strength.

“We need to look at creating more accountability with the Students' Union Executive.”

VIKRAM SETH
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

3 Name one new intuitive that you'd like to carry out.

Zepp: We should be stronger, firmer, and more concise as an Executive, when we're doing talks with the administration. This year, I think we were very disorganized. The Exec was disorganized in their reporting to councillors.

Dehod: One of the problems with leading the SU is that there is changeover on an annual basis. One thing that I think we should work on this summer is the Students' Union Strategic Plan. It provides a vision for how we're going to improve our capacity to support Student's Union executives when they come into this position. That's so we

4 Is the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, of which the U of A SU is a member, a useful lobby group or waste of money?

Zepp: I do know that if we weren't in CASA, we'd essentially have to pay a full-time employee to keep up with what's going on nationally. And that cost would be more than what it'd be to be a member of CASA. So from that perspective, I think it's good to be in CASA.

Dehod: Student Executives change on an annual basis, so for any executive you're going to have people coming in every year changing what those priorities may be. And also, because it's a national lobby group, different

where's the bite in it if those institutions aren't there? I would like to set up a sort of alliance between us and those 12 other schools. Like a super group, so we can lobby on the federal side of things — but a super group would go beyond lobbying. You can compare services, we could learn from one another.

5 How did you do on this year's Purity Test? And how will you improve your score as president?

Zepp: 285. I know there was one question online that may have been worth a lot of points, “Have you ever had a goat party?” or something like that. And I wasn't quite sure what that question was, but I was in Kenya over the summer, with Vikram Seth actually, and we bought and smoked and ate a goat and had a party. So I figured that counted as a goat party, and that probably put me over the top. Definitely have to get into the hard drugs. I'd have to get replaced by Zach Fentiman as president or something like that.

Dehod: I would say that I'm no Trojan Warrior, but I'm no Acolyte of Pan either. If elected president, to improve on my purity score, I will seek the consult of [Gateway editors] Sean Steels, Mike Kendrick and Jonathan Taves, and have them coach me throughout the year so that I can reach the same level of God/Goddess of altered states that they have accomplished this year.

Seth: About 210. My high school experiences — maybe I was experiencing some things a little too early. I had some good times, no doubt about that, but now I'm here to study.

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Board of Governors candidates seek to improve student access

The Board of Governors Representative promotes student interests by embodying the SU as a sitting member of the University's highest governing body.

Compiled by Sean Steels

1 What do you think of the current relationship between the SU and the Board of Governors?

Turner: I think that there's always going to be challenges, there's always going to be differences of opinion between the SU and both the University and the Board of Governors, who obviously has both University members, students, and members from the public on it. But I think that we've made good progress. In the past, governors have worked to influence members to see student concerns, and I think we'll continue to work to help those members become even more responsive to our concerns.



PETEYEE

UNDERWATER GUV'NAH Turner's key points are accountability, affordability, and quality.

Hansra: For each [representative], it's hashing out how you want to work with the board. Right now, the SU has a very strong relationship. [But] It's about hashing out your own method and style of dealing with the Board. What I want to do is present myself as a strong, charismatic leader to represent students on the Board of Governors, who also asks tough questions, like I have at previous student council meetings.

2 In what ways do you feel the BoG Rep can effect the greatest change for students?

Turner: The Board of Governors is the top body at the University for a lot of matters that are important to students: things like finance, things like big decisions on buildings and different capital projects on campus, things that really matter to students. Obviously there are issues like cost of tuition, cost of student housing residents, that sort of thing. There are also questions of things like study space in new buildings, and other elements of the undergraduate experience that aren't necessarily about the classroom education, but also the campus community as a whole.

Hansra: The main issue for students next year will be tuition. With tuition, with the CoSSS fee, it will be to establish an expiration for the CoSSS fee, and to make sure we don't have an issue with market modifiers next year. The way the BoG Rep can best effect change is to be accessible to students, understand what their opinions are. The primary issue that the University is facing with the Board of Governors is to make the BoG members, particularly the public members, understand the effect that tuition increases are having on students. The way I believe is we need to have a stronger relationship with the Board of Governors. We need to not only work on tuition.

3 What will be your priorities as BoG Rep in the coming year if you are elected?

Turner: My platform consists of three key points.

The first is accountability. I want to make sure that the University understands they need to be accountable to students for any sort of charges they try to put forward — for example, the CoSSS fee of up to \$550 that they're proposing for this year. I don't want them to think that that's a permanent fix. I want to demand an annual review of it.

The second point is affordability. I want to make sure tuition and residences remain affordable to all students. I want to also increase scholarships, bursaries, and financial aid. The third point is quality. I want to make sure students are getting what they pay for. Tuition is high, and I think the quality of education has to reflect that, whether it's inside or outside of the classroom.

Hansra: First off, the non-instructional fee. If this passes, we need to set a firm expiry date, to hold the University accountable to their promise this will be a temporary fee. [The] second thing we've got to work on is tuition. Over the last few years, we've seen an increase in tuition, but we haven't seen financial aid follow the same track.

4 What is the best way to handle representing student interests at the Board regarding the current budget deficit?

Turner: The University is obviously in a difficult position this year because of the provincial budget. I'm prepared to work with the University and with the members of the Board to try to solve this collectively. But I don't want that to affect affordability of education for students. I want to make sure members of the Board understand how concerning and how detrimental fee increases like this can be to students, especially those that are already having trouble paying for school [...] And if that fee does go forward this year, I want to push to make sure that a portion of any increase to fees is allocated to things like scholarships, bursaries, and financial aid.

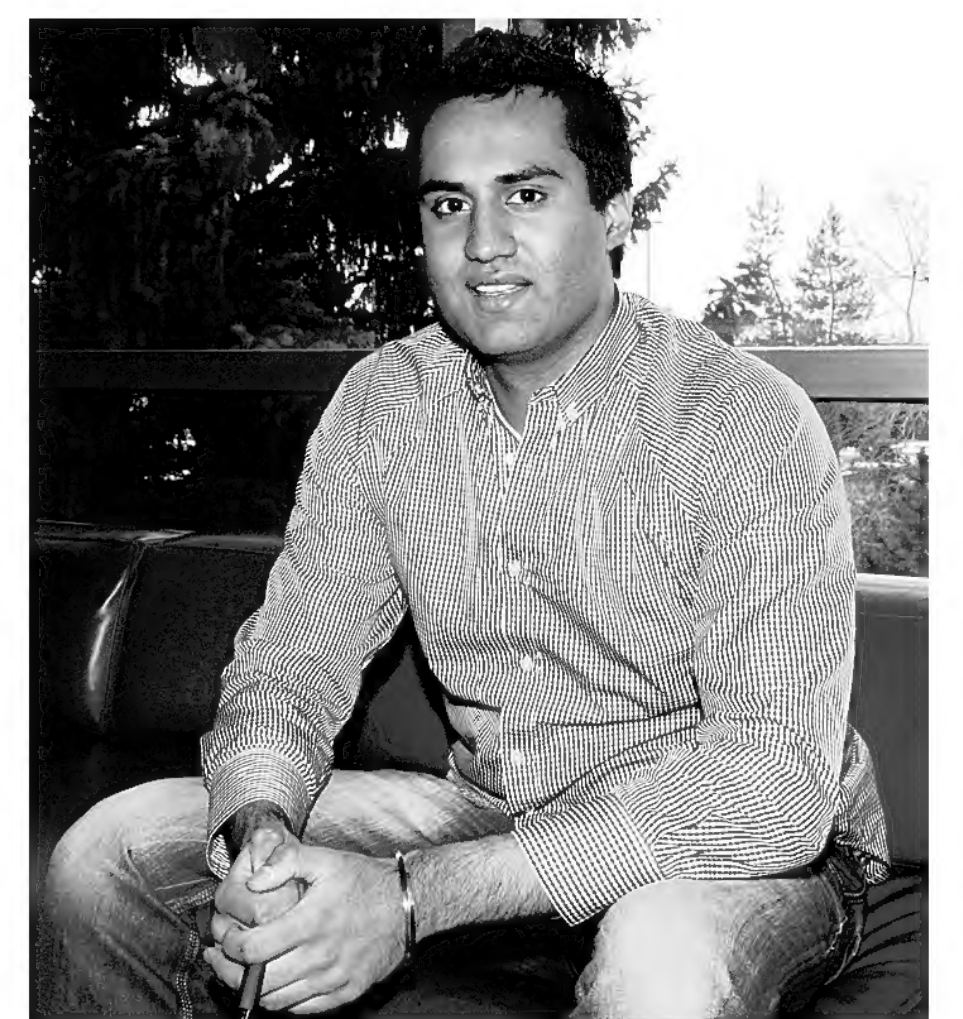
Hansra: First of all, we need to work with the Students' Union president. We are the two

undergraduate representatives. We need to work as a team. After that, we need to hatch a good relationship with the Graduate Students' Association President, the academic staff, and the non-academic staff on the board. After that, we can extend and build strong relationships with other members. We need to make the Board realize the effects these budget cuts are having on students.

5 If you had to take the BoG out for a night of partying with no budget limit, where would you take them?

Turner: I am going to say on an underwater adventure, because I want members of the Board to see that things can also succeed when they go down, as opposed to going up. Maybe they'll carry that forward to their thinking on tuition and fees.

Hansra: I'd bring them over to my house and feed them Kraft Dinner. I think with the increases we're having, it's important they realize what students have to deal with.



PETEYEE

GOTTA BE KD Hansra would like to help the BoG understand the impact of increasing costs.

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VPX candidates address provincial, national PSE issues

The Vice President (External) oversees relations between the Students' Union, provincial and federal governments, and the community at large, and is responsible for developing policy on education funding priorities.

Compiled by Alexandria Eldridge

1 What skills or experiences do you have that make you the best candidate for VP (External)?

Jon Mastel: I have experience in advocacy. I've been advocating for students on a provincial level longer than most students have been students. I was president of the Keyano College Students' Association in Fort McMurray for three years and I sat on the Student Finance board provincially for three years as well, both having a focus on provincial issues — on tuition, on funding, student grants, student loans, all those wonderful things. So I have the connections with people, I know how to do it, I've been doing it, I can continue to do it, and I just want to be able to do it here and do it for our students.

Aden Murphy: For the past year, I've been the Students' Union's external researcher, which means that I've had many, many hours to learn all about the student financial aid system and all the details about how that works and all of its faults, and there's enough faults. The benefit of that is on March 1, I can hit the ground running and actually start reforming the parts of the system that don't work well for students.

Jaiman Chin: I know that between the three of us, all of us are very experienced in a number of different ways, but in terms of experience on this campus and in the diversity of experience on this campus, I think by far I'm the leader there. I represented residents as an executive on the Lister Hall Students' Association, also as the President of the Residence Halls Association, which is mainly in charge of advocacy for residence. I sat for two years as a councillor, I've chaired the audit committee, been a member of the budget and finance committee. So I've had a lot of experience dealing with the finan-

cial side of things, but I've also been a member of the policy committee and most recently, I was appointed because of my experience, to fill the rest of the year as [Vice President (Operations and Finance)] for the SU.

2 What would be your main goal as incoming VP (External)? How would you accomplish this?

Mastel: My main goal would be trying to get funding back for students, back to the University so we're not faced with another \$550 tax so we have to bail them out again next year. Funding for us and funding for the University. In the last budget, the government decided they're going to take a whole lot of money out of student grants and throw it all into student loans. That's, in my opinion, not the right answer.

Murphy: The parts that I really want to change is how the student financial aid system works for students in Canada, at the U of A especially. Reforming the student financial aid system is difficult and requires a lot of in-depth knowledge and lobbying the government both provincially and federally, but being able to change important things like reforming the way the tax credits work or getting a better deal on income-based loan repayments, both those are major ideas that I want to work on.

Chin: I think the main goal of any VPX is to make sure that you're advocating the right issues in the right manner and being an effective voice for students. You've got to be proactive, you've got to go out and meet students who wouldn't normally be involved in the advocacy process, and I think my experience in campus makes me fairly ideally suited to do that [...]. In my platform, I've stated I want a renewed focus on having a permanent committee of advisors, a permanent advisory and planning committee for the external portfolio.

3 If elected, how would you encourage more student involvement in advocacy?

Mastel: One thing that the current VPX wasn't able to do, or didn't do in my opinion, was connect with the



CYRIL BALITBIT

WHO COULD IT BE? Murphy (left), Chin (centre), and Mastel all have experience working as councillors in the SU.

average student. One person going up to government and saying, "I represent all these people but there's only ten that really care," it doesn't work that well. We need the whole student body together basically yelling at the government, marching across high-level bridge to the Legislature, demanding that we have better free money, that the university gets better funding, that our education becomes more affordable.

Murphy: This is a difficult one because it's something the SU consistently fails at. The SU is amazing at lobbying government and working with other stakeholder groups, but we're terrible at getting all the students at the U of A involved. Frankly, the only way that I can only see to really get students involved is involved more advocacy in programming activities.

Chin: It comes in two ways. It does involve a very proactive approach. I think in a lot of ways, students feel very disconnected from the advocacy process and I think that's a shame. So you need to make sure that you're going out and actively soliciting opinions and actively soliciting advice on what students want to see in advocacy in and from the external portfolio. I also think having a standing committee of permanent advisors, active student leaders on campus who have wide reach to students that maybe the VPX doesn't normally have, allows

you to do that in a much more natural and organic matter.

4 What will be your response to potentially rising costs of post-secondary education?

Mastel: I personally think [the CoSSS fee] is the stupidest thing ever. It's really just a massive bailout for the University on the backs of the students. It's a tax; it's bad. To fight it, what I would love, if I was king and could decree things and things just happen, provincially, I'd sit down and say, "We need to have a governmental policy limiting non-academic fees." If there's a policy provincially, saying that any fee over a certain amount or even if there's any new academic fee has to be approved by the Ministry then it puts the onus on the university to prove to the Ministry that this fee is needed.

Murphy: The biggest thing for the CoSSS fee and the market modifiers, is that any major over CPI increase in tuition or fees has to go to referendum. For the past 10 years, the University has put every major new fee to referendum, whether it's the U-Pass or the PAW referendum coming up this year. That's the best model because it allows students a say on what happens with their money. Law students, for example, many are in favour of market modifiers. If they

vote in favour of that, then that's an entirely different issue.

Chin: [The deficit] comes from the University not being able to rely on the government for a stable source of funding. My approach primarily, to avoid those unexpected budget gaps and those unexpected fees would be to try and work with the university to push the government to ensure that stable institutional funding exists.

5 What was your score on the Purity Test? Justify your score?

Mastel: My score was 222 after I posted it on Twitter. I wanted to make my score a little lower, I guess, you could say. Actually, I'm not embarrassed or worried about my score. I've been in postsecondary for a while, so if someone's done it, I've probably either done it after them, done it before them or watched them do it and thought "Hey, that'd be a good idea. I might do that next weekend."

Murphy: 146 and I'm hoping by the end of the election I'll be able to push that over 150.

Chin: I didn't take the Purity Test. I can justify that by saying that I lived for four years in Lister and it's generally not a pretty thing when I take the Purity Test, so I've just stopped.

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Brett Howard
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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES BOARDS & COMMITTEES

TERMS OF OFFICE: May 1 2010 to April 30, 2011 (*in most cases*)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday March 8, 2010, 5:00 pm (*no exceptions*)

Submit complete package to 2-900 SUB

APPLICATION FORMS Available at SU Reception Desk 2-900 SUB, and SUB, HUB, CAB, ETLC Info booths and Faculty Association Offices or online at **WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA**

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents.
- We thank everyone who applies; however, **ONLY** shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.
- Positions are subject to Council ratification and signing of employment contract.

ACADEMIC RELATIONS GROUP

- Participates in activities raising student awareness of academic issues
- Assists and advises the Vice President Academic on academic issues.
- Participates in workshops & seminars to improve teaching on campus

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the VP Academic at 492-4236

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 26 after 5:30 pm

ADVOCACY ACTION ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE OF COUNCIL OF FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS (COFA)

- Mandate of this committee is to inspire and facilitate efforts of COFA and the Association.
- Duties include, but not limited to, managing and planning campaigns and providing perspective to the efforts of COFA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the VP Academic at 492-4236

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 26 after 5:30 pm

AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Selects annual SU award winners
- Involved in numerous aspects of planning annual awards night

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the Executive Assistant Catherine Raitt: 492-4241.

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 26 after 5:30 pm

STUDENT LIFE

PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

- Makes recommendations regarding SU entertainment, planning & implementation
- Plans and implements WOW & Anti-Freeze
- Assists and advises the Vice-President Student Life

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the VP Student Life at 492-4236

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 after 5:00 pm

STUDENTS' UNION SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

- Shall review different aspects of the Students' Union's operations from a social responsibility perspective and propose recommendations for their improvement;
- Provide advice as requested to the Students' Union Executive on matters relating to social responsibility;
- Encourage ongoing, proactive discussion within the Students' Union on how to be more socially responsible; and
- Inform the Students' Union upon request on how to best communicate its efforts to the student body.

There are four (4) seats on the committee for students-at-large.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the Executive Assistant Catherine Raitt: 492-4241.

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 26 after 5:30 pm

STUDENTS' UNION HEALTH & DENTAL PLAN COMMITTEE

- Shall provide and opportunity for students to provide input and feedback on the various components of the Plan
- Functions may include creating policy and setting direction for the structure and service and all components related to the Plan and reviewing and approving any benefits or premium changes.

There are three (3) seats on the committee for students-at-large.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the VP Student Life at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 after 5:30 pm

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA SENATE

- Requires three undergraduate students appointed by the Students' Union
- The Senate's responsibility is to inquire into any matter that may enhance the image of the University and act as a link between the University and the public.
- The Senate may also authorize the conferring of Honorary Degrees.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: contact the VP External at 492-4236

INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 26 after 5:00 pm



STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TERMS OF OFFICE: May 1 2010 to April 30, 2011 (*except where noted*)
APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday March 8, 2010, 5:00 pm (*no exceptions*)
Submit cover letter, resume and 3 references (name & phone numbers) to 2-900 SUB
DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTIONS are available at WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/JOBS

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- Please submit only single sided documents.
- We thank everyone who applies; however, **ONLY** shortlisted applicants will be notified.
- Please be available for the noted interview time.
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid full Students' Union fees.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

Reports to Students' Council and oversees all electoral logistics. Must be familiar with election process and bylaws. Excellent project management skills are required to succeed in this position.
REMUNERATION: \$6667.50 honoraria
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Catherine Raitt: ea@su.ualberta.ca
INTERVIEWS scheduled for Monday, March 30 starting at 5:00 pm.

SPEAKER OF STUDENTS' COUNCIL

Reports to Students' Council . Responsible for chairing all meetings of Council. Must be available on Council nights (Tuesday) beginning at 5:30 pm.
REMUNERATION: \$190 / meeting
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Catherine Raitt: ea@su.ualberta.ca

RECORDING SECRETARY (CASUAL POSITION)

Duties include: attending various meetings of Students' Council committees, taking minutes and submitting updated minutes according to a set schedule. All meetings will take place after 4:00 pm and will be on the U of A Campus. Excellent typing skills are required.
WAGE: \$10 / hour
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Catherine Raitt: ea@su.ualberta.ca

STUDENT SERVICE DIRECTORS

Passionate about giving back to the campus community? Looking for invaluable work experience? Apply to be a service director with the Students' Union! You will supervise staff and volunteers, oversee a budget, market the service and ensure the overall smooth running of the service. All service director positions are 30 hours per week and report to the Assistant Manager of Student Services.

For further information contact the Assistant Manager of Student Services at 492-4949

ECOS (ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION OFFICE OF STUDENTS) DIRECTOR

The Director of ECOS is responsible for researching, developing and implementing environmental programs for the Students' Union and students on campus.
REMUNERATION: \$1,748 / month
INTERVIEWS scheduled for Friday, March 19, starting at 4:00 pm

OMBUDSERVICE (2)

(Term of Employment: September 1, 2010– August 31, 2011)
The OmbudService is a joint U of A and SU service, The service works to ensure fairness and due process and is responsible for information and referral on University policy, and protocols related to the academic and personal well being of all students.
REMUNERATION: \$1,748 / month
INTERVIEWS scheduled for Monday, April 12, starting at 4:00 pm
DEADLINE Friday, March 26, 2010

SAFEWALK DIRECTOR

The Safewalk Director is responsible for the overall operation of the Safewalk program, including working with other units on campus to improve and promote safety on campus. This is an excellent opportunity to develop volunteer management and administrative skills.
REMUNERATION: \$1,748 / month
INTERVIEWS scheduled for Thursday, March 18 starting at 5:00 pm

PEER SUPPORT CENTRE (FORMERLY STUDENT DISTRESS CENTRE) DIRECTOR

The Peer Support Centre offers peer counseling, crisis intervention and information/referral services to the campus community. The director is responsible for training and developing PSC volunteers, and other administrative duties. Applicants must have at least one year of comparable peer-counseling experience.
REMUNERATION: \$1,748 / month
INTERVIEWS scheduled for Thursday, March 18, starting at 7:00 pm



FULL JOB DESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE AT WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/JOBS

Turns out students just can't say 'no'

IT WAS SAID AT LAST NIGHT'S STUDENTS' UNION elections residence forum that campus is a diverse place, with a population of undergrads with varying needs, wants, and tastes. For instance, on the surface, it appears that we students love debate — just look at the turnout for this year's "Does God Exist?" event for proof. However, if it were that simple, then we surely wouldn't be in our current situation: three referenda in the election, all with an unrepresented No side.

So what's the reason for this dearth of discourse? There's little precedent for it; while last year's health plan referendum had no formal opposition, most referenda and plebiscites in the past have had someone running the No side, from 2007's Coke No to the successful No side for the original health plan proposal back in '05. Many of these election questions were hotly contested, involving many trips to the SU's very own judiciary arm, DIE Board. And while many don't like to admit it, the elections that pique the most public interest are the most controversial ones.

The weird part is, this year's referenda are some of the most controversial in recent memory. While the U-Pass renewal itself seems to be fairly procedural, there's a good amount of issues surrounding it that have yet to be negotiated, including concerns about ETS service capacity, and late-night transit runs for exam season. While U-Pass Yes campaign manager and current Vice President (External) Beverly Eastham used the LRT extension to Century Park as a positive of the U-Pass so far, much of the extension was planned and proposed before the pass came into effect. Furthermore, much of the LRT development for post-Century Park is focused on the north side of the river, with the extension to NAIT — a school not currently served by ETS' U-Pass.

Then there's the proposed Physical Activity & Wellness Centre. While this year's PAW Yes proposal is much more thought out than the voted-down Physical Activity Centre of years past, there's still quite a bit to take issue with. The campaign makes a laundry list of promises for the centre, trying to please as many portions of campus as possible: in addition to its fitness centre core, there's a games area, a teaching kitchen, food and retail space, a "social street," and space for spiritual groups who require "a large space to pray." With its goal of cramming something for everyone into a space smaller than the Butterdome, the end result may end up looking like something designed by Homer Simpson.

Of course, the big referendum question — and the most surprisingly unopposed — is the Millenium Villages dedicated fee proposal. If passed, it would be unique in being the only DfU to provide no direct benefit to the student population, in whole or in part. While there's not enough space here to go over the many reasons that a No side could represent, it's perhaps this referendum that calls the most attention to the lack of an official opposition.

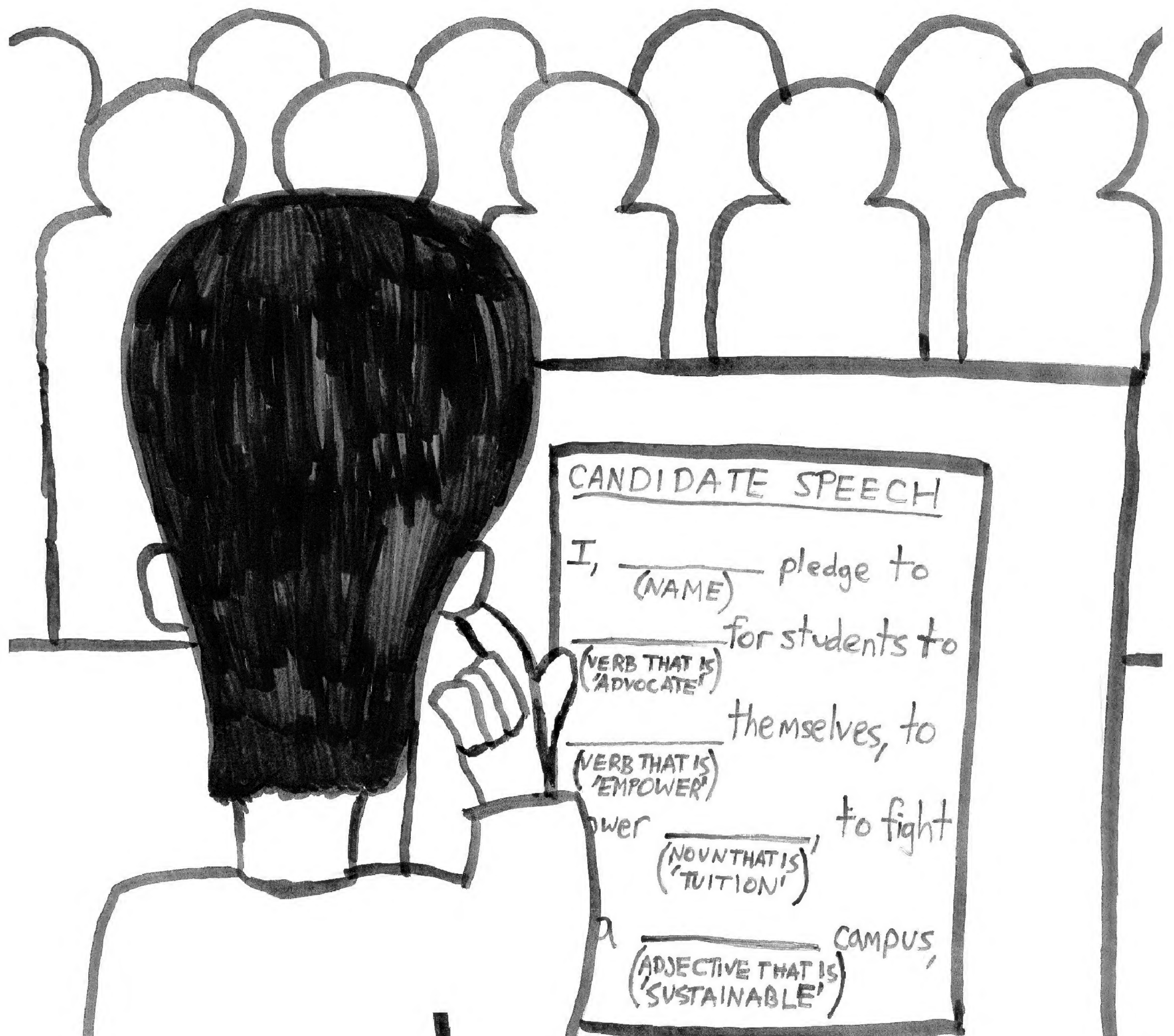
But while I've gone over many reasons to vote against these referenda, it's not because I'm necessarily opposed to them — in fact, you'd be a fool to vote No on the U-Pass for sheer financial reasons alone; instead, it's to illustrate how easy it would have been for any student on campus to run a No campaign, and to create some discourse on these important issues. A lack of debate further contributes to the stereotype that undergraduates at the U of A are complacent, and it's stereotypes like these that make the University's administration think that they can burden us with non-instructional fees: because they think we can't say No.

LUCAS WAGNER
Online Editor

I'm sensing a marathon in his future

Ten days to Oscars;
I've seen five nominated
Films. Don't tell my pool.

DAVID JOHNSTON
Auctioned off his body for love



LANCE MUDRYK

letters TO THE eds

Rock the vote

For the last several years, when I try to inform myself about the SU candidates in order to vote, I have always been disappointed about one thing. The candidates tend to give vague ideas about what they want to do, but they rarely say how they plan to do it.

Take Vice President (Academic) candidate L'Abbé's statement that he wants to "push ... for things like more interdisciplinary studies, and enabl[e] students to access things in different faculties." How would he do that? It's one thing to say, "I want to do this," and another thing entirely to actually do it. I want to hear a game plan or a plan of action. How *exactly* does L'Abbé plan to get the University faculties to allow more students from other faculties into their classes, or to change their graduation requirements to allow students to take a wider breadth of classes? Is that even feasible? I mean, it's a huge change. Who is he going to talk to and how does he intend to get the faculties to go along with his idea? I understand that these things are part of the academic plan according to L'Abbé, but how does he actually intend to ensure they're accomplished and "push ... and hold ... the University to the commitments it's made to students?"

Let us now examine the other VP (Academic) candidate, Eastham. He talks a lot about advocacy or "reinvigorat[ing] our advocacy." How does he intend to advocate or "reinvigorate our advocacy" for the academic plan, textbooks, co-ops, etc.? Advocacy is one of those buzz words that candidates throw in, but it has no real meaning to me without having a plan of action behind it.

I used the VP (Academic) candidates as an example, but the main message I want to get across to *all* the candidates is that I, personally, wish to hear not just *what* their ideas are, but *exactly how* they plan to bring those ideas to fruition. Give a step-by-step game plan if possible, please!

FARON SMORDIN
Science IV

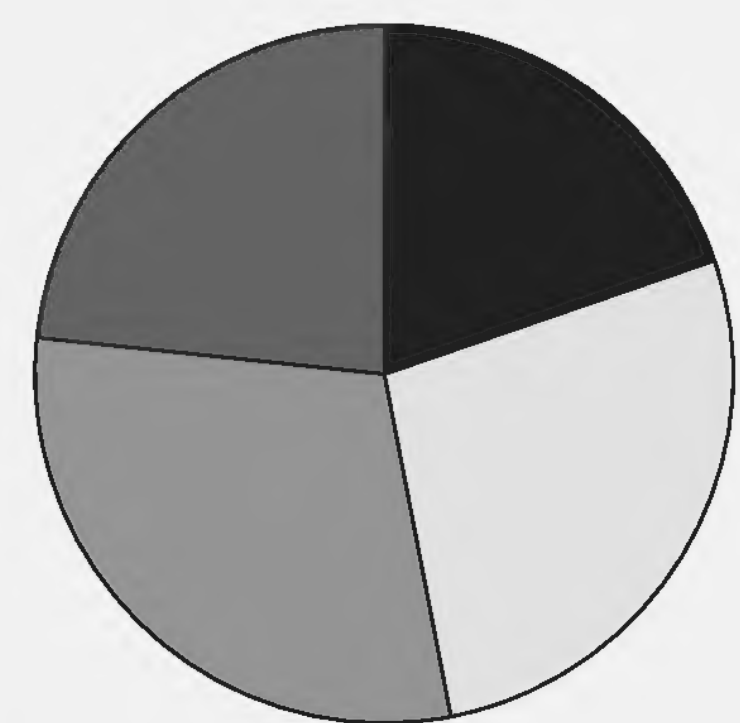
Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca or delivered via paper aeroplane to SUB 3-04. Website comments may occasionally be printed.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

readerpoll

"So ... how did you do on the Purity Test?"



- 75 or below; I'm a bit new at this living thing (23%)
- 76 to 150; yeah, I've been tempted (30%)
- 150 to 225; I'm your average well-adjusted U of A student (27%)
- 225 or higher; I am literally partying hard right as I'm clicking Vote (20%)

TOTAL RESPONSES: 313

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:

"Call it — who's going to be next year's Students' Union President?"

vote online at thegatewayonline.ca

Turning the page on theme parks



OPINION
STAFF

Group
Commentary

With the opening of *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter* in a scant three months, ostensibly bringing the Muggles of Florida a dash of wizardry and wonderfulness, the writers of *Gateway Opinion* know it's only a matter of time before another literary work is brought to theme park status. So we've racked our bookcases and combed through our libraries in search of the perfect novel idea to introduce a little amusement into everyone's lives. Read on.

Lance Mudryk *The Catcher in the Rye*

With J.D. Salinger's recent death, much excitement began to stir around his estate. It came as a shock to all when the Salinger family announced they had sold the rights to *The Catcher in the Rye* Theme Park to renowned filmmaker and crazy man Wes Anderson, who's crafting plans for its grand opening to be in 2011, the novel's 50th anniversary.

A scaled-down, simplified 1940s Manhattan will be the backdrop for the venue. Instead of constructing the standard luxury hotels for residents to stay in, actual dilapidated hotels will be poorly constructed inside the park to give guests the authentic Holden Caulfield experience.

Scattered throughout the park will be dozens of people dressed up as phonies available for tourists to take pictures with and lash out against. Prostitutes can be hired but not actually prostituted, and alcohol will be ingested. A carousel will be made available to anyone less than 10 years of age; older individuals can only sit on a nearby bench to watch the children and cry for their lost innocence.

The grand spectacle, tentatively named Mr. Antolini's Wild Ride, may not be a ride in the conventional sense, but an awkward, pseudo-sexual pat on the head might turn out to be the most exhilarating apartment complex to be found on the grounds. *The Catcher in the Rye* may not seem like a lot of fun, but when you start reflecting on it, you can get nostalgic. Even for old Stradlater and Ackley, and Goddamn Maurice. It's funny. Don't ever go to this crazy park. If you do, you start to miss every ride. You really do.

Catherine Lee *Twilight*

Seriously. After Harry Potter, you'd think this would be the next logical step, right? Think of the possibilities! I'm no Twihard myself, but I've read Stephenie Meyer's attempt at literature, and have a pretty good grasp of what the oh-so-tempting entertainment could be. Some attractions could include, "Running with the Vampires", a 3D-simulation game where you could experience the feel of running through the woods at mach speed and almost getting your head smashed by a wayward pine tree branch. Or, better yet, "Vampire tag in the sewers of some nondescript ancient Italian town." I could definitely see that one going big. But my favourite would be "Where's Edward?" where the fans must run around a larger-than-life model of a teenage girl's brain, searching for the brooding, sparkling, iridescent, shiny, and — dare I say it — Heathcliff-esque

hero hidden amongst the mirrors and angst. Those who possess a heart worth the breaking it will inevitably endure will find this section delightful.

And to rival the delicacies of pumpkin juice and butterbeer of Harry Potter World, there would naturally be servings of cherry juice, in types A, B, O, and AB, to satisfy those "bloodthirsty" fans.

But of course, my favourite part of visiting any destination would be the memorable souvenirs that you can purchase at ridiculously overpriced costs. To remind you of your unrequited fantasies, here they would be vampire bite-mark tattoos, to complement all the Team Edward and Team Jacob merchandise that you no doubt already own.

Bruce Cinnamon *Watership Down*

Due to the outstanding popularity of Disney's animal-themed movies and parks, it's only a matter of time before this literary gem gets a place in the sun. Bugs Bunny has nothing on the rabbits of *Watership Down*, who enjoy a bromantic trek through a world suffused with deep themes and masterful literary techniques. The theme park provides the full experience for fans of the book, and an ultimate manly outdoor roughin'-it good time for those who don't read.

Pride and Prejudice World features such thrilling activities as leisurely walks, high tea on the gazebo, terpsichory, and light- to-moderate swooning.

At the entrance, visitors are warned by a midget seer to leave their cars for a nearby meadow, and those that do are lucky, for the parking lot is soon demolished and paved over with another parking lot. They are then guided through an enormous scale version of the stereotypical English countryside and made to dig burrows through the earth that is the space between literary heaven and hell. It's all part of the magic.

Some selected attractions include "Crossing the Iron Road," introductory workshops to learn Lapine, and raiding the nearby Jane Austen theme park for females, because you forgot to pack them with the rest of your objects on this trip.

Though some critics call the park "incomprehensible" and "boringly unpleasant," others praise the allegorical elements and the freedom to pass *hraka* wherever you please. Those who like the park generally take an "If you're not having fun, that's just because you're not well read enough" approach.

After securing the plot devices ... er, objects ... er, women ... visitors are attacked by mascots clad in rabbit suits, which are considerably more terrifying than actual giant rabbits. After the battle, the remaining visitors are escorted back to their *hrududu* and given some alfalfa sprouts and pamphlets for the nearby non-fiction park based on a post-traumatic stress disorder manual.

Alix Kemp *The collected works of Alan Moore*

What better theme for an all-ages amusement park than the works of Alan Moore? The reclusive comic-book author, renowned for his hatred of every film made based on his work, is surely just disappointed that the

adaptation he truly wants has not yet been fully realized.

Although the *Watchmen* film was criticized by concerned parents who took their children to see an R-rated superhero movie, the amusement park would be much more child-friendly. It would feature a variety of fun carnie-style games, including one where participants can throw meat cleavers at stuffed dog heads, and roller coasters exploring the surface of Mars, Ozymandias' Antarctic lair, and the grim streets of New York City.

Visitors to *V for Vendetta*'s London would be provided with LSD before entering the park, where a high-speed train would take them through a recreation of the Lark Hill internment camp and the London underground. Every night at midnight, a team of demolitionists would detonate bombs beneath a replica of the British Parliamentary building, culminating in an impressive display of fireworks, so bring your cameras!

In *From Hell*, tourists would also be able to explore the London of the 1880s. They could observe the grisly work of Jack the Ripper in a super-realistic dark ride, complete with a creepy voiceover by the killer himself. Afterwards, a lunch buffet would be available at a period-style pub, with working girls in realistic costumes waiting on the customers.

All in all, Mooreland would provide fun for the whole family, and pander to the mass commercialization that Alan Moore is so fond of.

Ross Vincent *Pride and Prejudice*

This one's for the ladies, specifically of the bonnet-wearing variety. As Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* has secured a perpetual fan base among educated women since it was first published, a theme park based on this 19th-century classic is a surefire way to sponge the coin from their bloomers.

Sprawled across several acres reminiscent of the English countryside, *Pride and Prejudice* World features such thrilling activities as leisurely walks, high tea on the gazebo, terpsichory, and light-to-moderate swooning. To make the atmosphere complete, the park is entirely staffed by Georgian-era man candy. Officers! Lovely dashing officers everywhere you look. Be warned, however — there's a good chance some of them might be cads.

But of course, the main attraction is every woman's favourite ride: Mr. Darcy. In a re-creation of the night of Mr. Bingley's ball, you too will have the privilege of having Mr. Darcy refuse to dance with you. Unlike in the book, however, he won't do this out of prideful conceit, but rather because he thinks you're rubbish. This will likely come as a shock to all the would-be Elizabeth Bennets out there who fancy themselves as intelligent women just because they read a book once. Your idle fantasies about Mr. Darcy don't stem from wanting the love and respect of an equal, but from your own self-delusion of possessing the kind of intelligent beauty that attracts wealthy, smouldering hunks. Face it — you simply aren't good enough for him. Cheer up, though; there's still plenty of dishy officers to pick from.

Mike Kendrick *House of Leaves*

Hmm. Seems quaint enough ... wait, how the *fuck* do we get out?

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The most effective way to warm up your vehicle – even in cold weather – is to drive it. If you're stopped for more than 10 seconds you will save more fuel by turning off your engine than idling. Remember, all it takes is a turn of the key to be idle free!

Want more green tips? Sign up to receive an electronic newsletter from the Office of Sustainability at www.sustainability.ualberta.ca.

**OFFICE OF
SUSTAINABILITY**
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building a
**sustainable
future**




EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & PUBLISHER

The *Gateway* is accepting applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief and Publisher for the 2010/2011 publishing year. The term runs from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011 and pays \$2026.86/month*. Applicants must plan to be enrolled at the U of A in at least one class per semester for the 2010/2011 school year; must be available to work varying hours; must have computer and layout skills; and will preferably have been a *Gateway* editor, or possess equivalent leadership and editorial experience.**

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and a portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Ashleigh Brown, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 4 March 2010**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.
** Complete job description (subject to change) is available at www.thegatewayonline.ca/gsjis.

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Housing plan evicts any conviction



ROBERT FRIGON

differences. The two main aspects that can control a housing crisis — down payments and mortgage term — were not addressed in the new regulations that'll take hold on April 19.

These two aspects affect why people would walk away from their houses in a crisis — when the current value owing on their mortgage exceeds the current market value of their house. To ensure that market fluctuations don't leave homeowners in such a situation, a large down payment is needed. Currently, a mere five per cent is needed to secure a loan. The Conservatives had discussed increasing the down payment to 10 per cent, but didn't follow through on this. This would have helped ensure that a larger drop in housing prices doesn't leave homeowners with a house worth less than their mortgage.

There was also speculation that the Tories would enforce changes to the length of mortgages — reducing them from 35 to 30 years. This could've been an important reduction. With the reduction of five years off of one's mortgage, monthly payments would go up, but a borrower could save thousands of dollars over the life of the mortgage.

For example, a \$400,000 house with a mortgage rate of 3.4 per cent — a very conservative rate — and a loan of \$360,000 will cost a homeowner in total \$845,395.44 for a 35-year term. Compare this to a borrower who takes out the same loan for 30 years — the total cost to the borrower will be \$770,961.92. Reducing the term length will save the borrower \$74,433.52 in total. Even more importantly, the borrower will start paying off the loan instead of just the interest. This ensures that fluctuations in the housing market will need to be greater before homeowners' debate walking away.

The Conservatives have taken a step in the right direction, but were unable to finish what needed to be done. The ball was dropped for first-time home buyers, as the right move on that front was to decrease term length and increase down payment percentage. The detriments may be harsher, but these detriments will come with real positive results, and a sustainable future for first-time home buyers and the housing market as a whole.

Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and the federal Tories rolled out their new mortgage plan earlier this month. The Conservatives shied away from doing what's needed, but instead opted for only marginally stronger restrictions.

The Tories' comprehensive three-pronged plan is focused on quelling the fluctuating housing market. The first prong ensures that new borrowers can obtain a five-year fixed-rate mortgage on their prospective home value, but can opt for a lower flex-rate one. Secondly, a homeowner may only refinance 90 per cent of their home's value — down five per cent from the previous law of 95 per cent. This means that a homeowner can only put lean on their house for up to 90 per cent of its current value. The last prong enforces that non-primary residences must have a 20 per cent down payment. The Tories obviously feel that this attack will smooth the growth of the housing market.

Analysts expect the plan to affect roughly 25 per cent of new home buyers — forcing them into lower-cost homes than they desire. It will also affect the rental market: it will be more difficult for investors to enter into the housing market for planned rental housing. Tenants can thus expect an increase in rental prices. This will prove to be a double-edged sword for consumers; it will be more difficult for citizens to buy housing and to continue renting will cost them even more, ultimately creating a lose-lose situation. The Conservatives' plan will attack some of the problems, but not all of them.

The Tories' plan doesn't attack the root of the problem, but instead simply attacks the foliage. The new regulations will trim the weed that is the housing crisis without creating real



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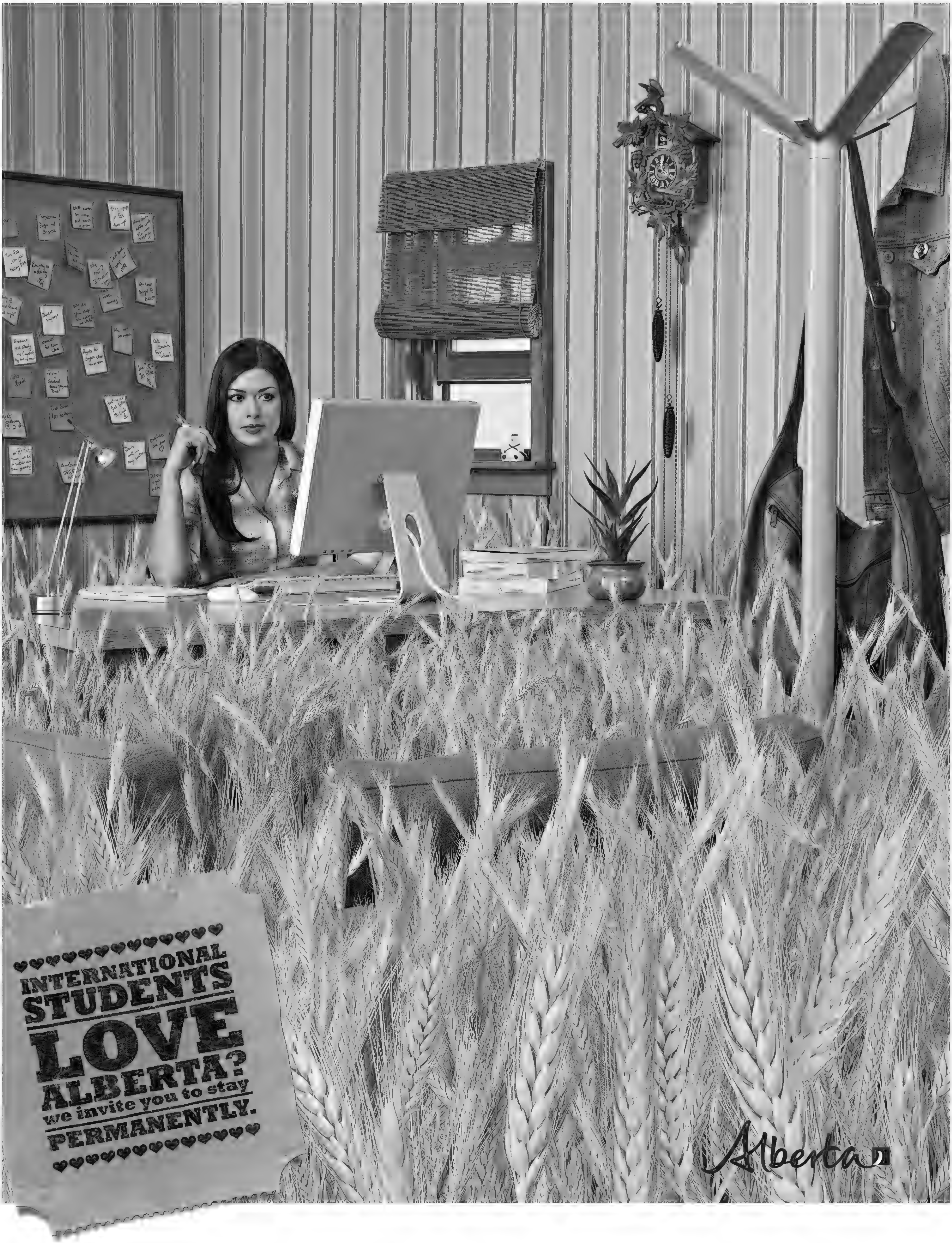
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PASSING THROUGH THE GREAT SIBERIAN NORTH

Written and photographed by Phil Head

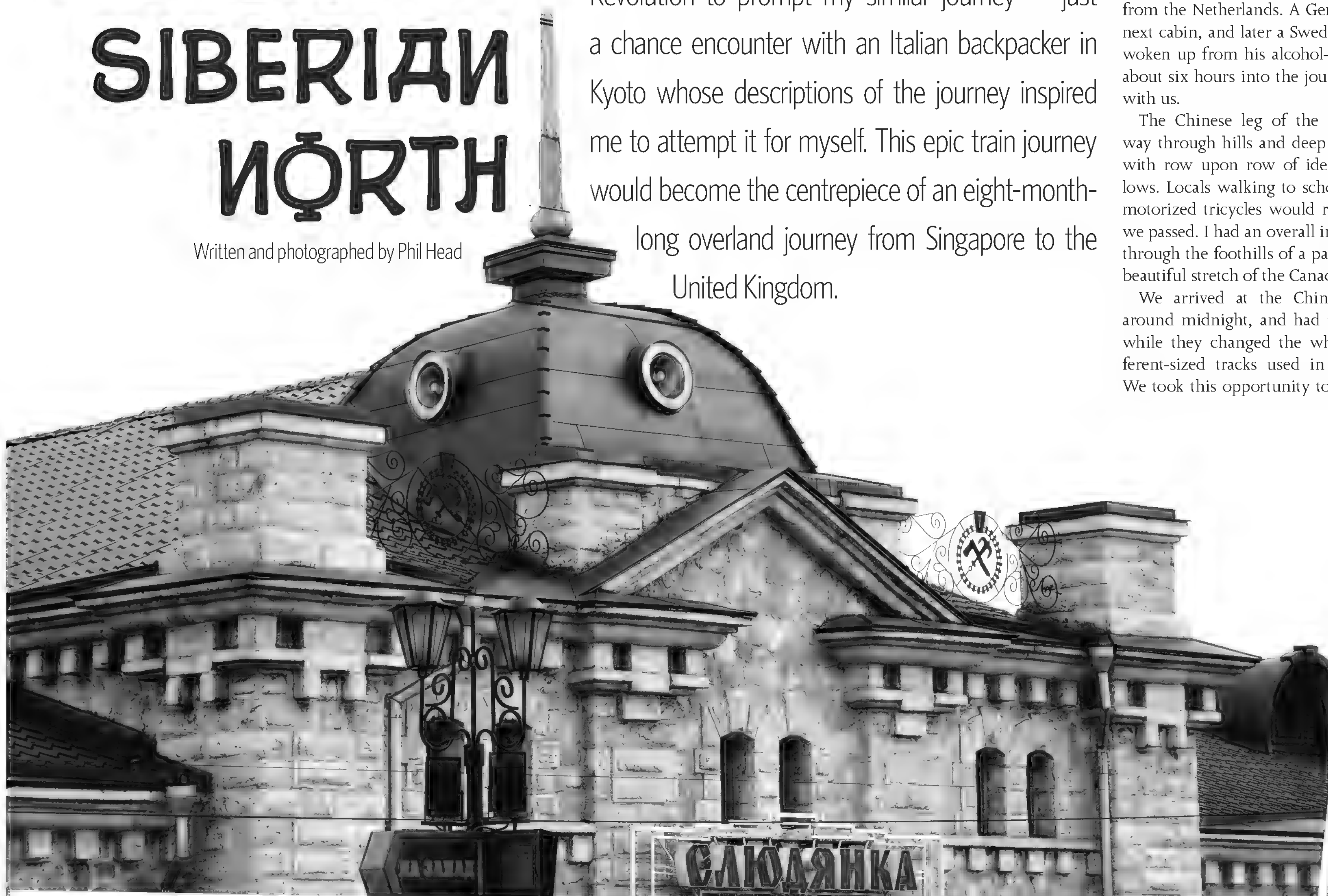
My desire to take a train journey across Siberia starts with tales of my great grandparents. Along with other British diplomats, they and their firstborn son made the journey from Moscow to Beijing where their second child, my grandfather, was born. Now I didn't have anything so pressing as the Russian Revolution to prompt my similar journey — just a chance encounter with an Italian backpacker in Kyoto whose descriptions of the journey inspired me to attempt it for myself. This epic train journey would become the centrepiece of an eight-month-long overland journey from Singapore to the United Kingdom.

After four months on the road in Southeast Asia, I found myself in the central Beijing train station early one fine Wednesday morning in May. I was prepared with my ticket, backpacks (one for photo gear, one for everything else), and as many instant noodle and tea packets as I could carry.

At the beginning of the journey from Beijing to Ulan Bator (the capital of Mongolia), the train was packed. One of the nice things about this train is that you can get to know your fellow travellers. In my four-bed cabin — called a "hard sleeper" yet surprisingly comfortable — I was joined by a man from Britain and another from the Netherlands. A German lady from the next cabin, and later a Swedish fellow who had woken up from his alcohol-induced near-coma about six hours into the journey, also hung out with us.

The Chinese leg of the journey wound its way through hills and deep valleys, past towns with row upon row of identical brick bungalows. Locals walking to school or riding by on motorized tricycles would return our waves as we passed. I had an overall impression of sailing through the foothills of a particularly dusty and beautiful stretch of the Canadian Rockies.

We arrived at the China-Mongolia border around midnight, and had to get off the train while they changed the wheels to fit the different-sized tracks used in the former USSR. We took this opportunity to do some duty-free



shopping and try to use up some of our remaining Chinese currency. Thus, I was able to supplement my instant noodles with more instant noodles, beer, and some bananas. Other people bought a litre of what appeared to be Absolut vodka, but which later turned out to be “Absolute” vodka with a small “made in China” printed below the “made in Finland” on the almost perfectly copied Absolut label.

Border crossings were not particularly enjoyable as they typically took place just after midnight. They also took up to four hours as guards on both sides of the border would inspect your passports and search the cabins. English was not comprehended easily by the guards, a big departure from all the other tourist-friendly countries I’d travelled through up to that point. There seems to be a particular gruffness inherent in the bureaucracy of Russia — or perhaps they weren’t too happy about having to be up at 2 a.m. either. The wait times at the borders would not be so bad if not for the unfortunate discovery that, after we had all consumed large amounts of tea, coffee, and beer, that the bathrooms are always locked whenever the train is not moving. A bladder ready to burst doesn’t make the time go by quickly.

After we left Ulan Bator, the train was almost completely empty save for about 20 or so foreign tourists and five Mongolian traders carrying the equivalent baggage of 50 travellers which they secreted into the cabins of other passengers.

After Ulan Bator, the German girl left and was replaced by a Russian girl who had been teaching English in China. This was nice as it prevented the trip from becoming a total sausage-fest. She was the only person in her carriage apart from a Mongolian trader. Apparently he was somewhat creepy and so she asked the British member of our group to come to her cabin for her protection. Or perhaps the trader was just a convenient excuse for her to get the British guy alone. In any case, the trip bore witness to a discreet romance that was doomed to die when the train pulled into Moscow.

Some people might ask what there is to do on a train for five days. The fact is that the time flew and there didn’t seem to be enough. The scenery on the journey was so beautiful that I ended up neglecting to read the books I’d brought along. It also turned out that most of my cabin mates were musicians (the Swedish fellow was in a death metal band called the “Fuck You Fingers” and had many tattoos of severed goat heads and pentagrams) and the trip had a soundtrack of chopstick percussion against bowls, cups, and vodka bottles.

One of the things that most amazed me about the Mongolian landscape was how much it reminded me of southern Alberta. There were clear blue skies in all directions and flat grassland, empty except for sheep, horses, and the occasional yurt (or ger, the traditional nomadic dwelling in Mongolia). This was real cowboy

country, with sightings of men on horseback far outnumbering vehicles. Perhaps the surprise of Mongolia was the result of my inaccurate imagining of crossing a Gobi desert full of vast sand dunes.

When I awoke in Russia on the third day, it was to a view of the shore of Lake Baikal, the deepest freshwater lake in the world. There were lots of delightfully painted wooden cottages, like something from a fairy tale, which immediately stood out as “European” after being so long in Asia. The overall scenery for the rest of the journey was mostly pine forests which afforded me the first real opportunity to pull my eyes away from the window, and to crack open one of the many books I’d brought along.

The Russian girl tried teaching us some basic Russian and was very helpful when we pulled into the small towns around the station to pick up supplies. I bought a large round loaf of black bread, the hearty type that can sustain you forever or be used as a pillow or defensive weapon if necessary. Being able to buy real bread and sausage in a store was a very exciting moment for me after over a year in Asia, where I had subsisted mostly on rice. There was also cheap vodka in abundance along with two-litre plastic jugs of beer. While there is a restaurant car for those who want to purchase food and beverages on board the train, most of the backpackers (myself included) opted to eat food brought along for the journey or bought during the brief stops. The

prices would be reasonable for Canada, but were outrageous compared to the local food costs. As each carriage is furnished with a coal-fired samovar supplying an endless stream of boiling water, the diet of most passengers consisted of instant noodles, snacks, and lots and lots of tea and coffee.

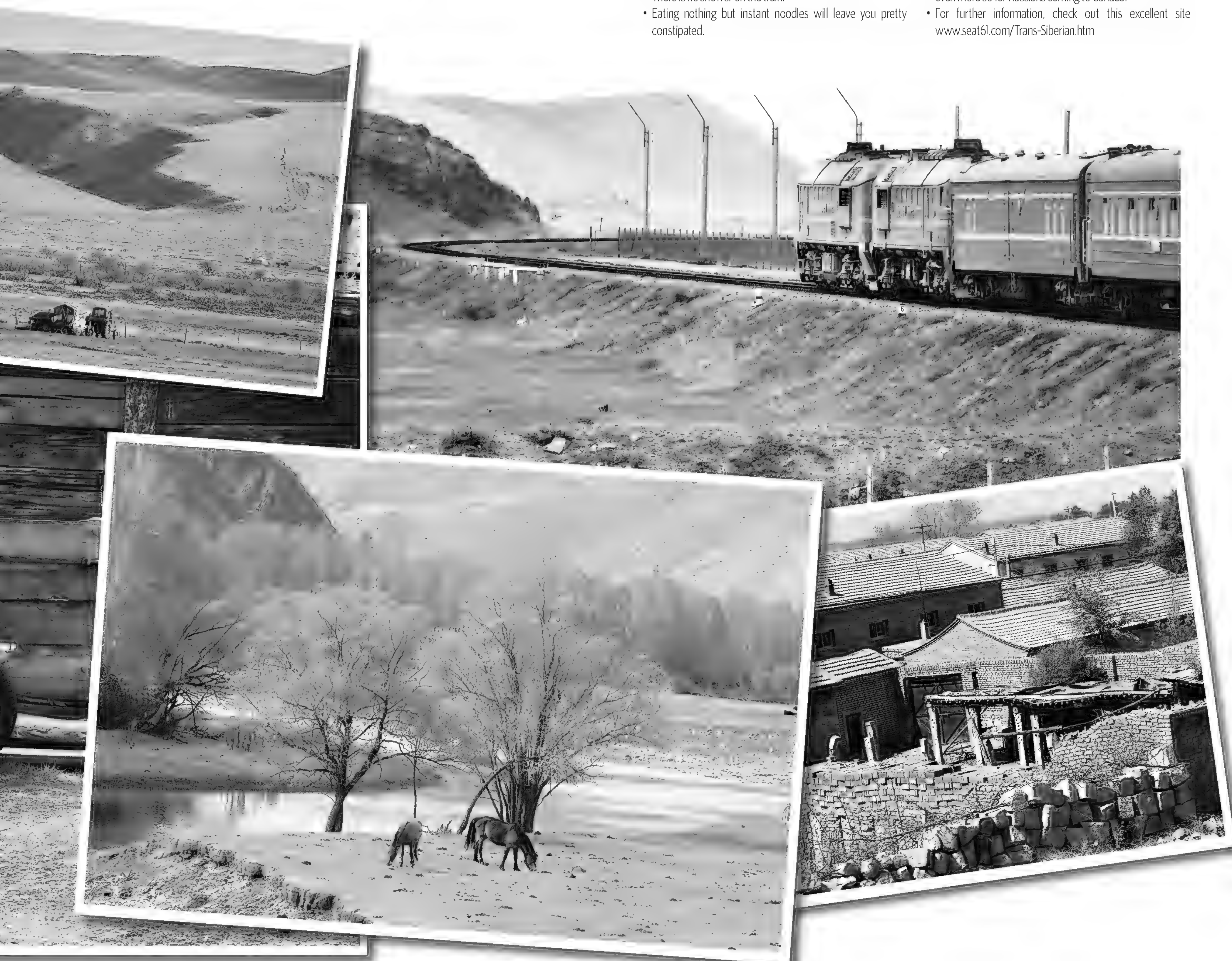
The carriage attendants, however, were much better prepared and were constantly seen preparing multi-course meals in their cabins. Unfortunately for us, they decided to store and prepare this food in the washing area, thus frustrating our attempts for a reasonable level of personal hygiene. Furthermore, the attendants spent the vast majority of their time playing cards and chain smoking in the cabin at the end of the carriage. This was, of course, not much fun for someone with a smoke allergy, but it’s futile to complain when the people concerned don’t speak English and obviously don’t care, as evidenced by their habit of lighting up directly below the no-smoking signs. You have been warned.

Finally, as the train pulled into Moscow on a Sunday afternoon, five days after the journey had begun, I said goodbye to my new friends as we went our separate ways. As I prepared to locate the subway to my hostel, I realized that my one regret of the journey was that I’d had so much fun that I’d completely neglected to learn the Cyrillic alphabet and had no way of reading the signs directing me to my next stop.

TIPS FOR TRAVELLING ON THE TRANS-MONGOLIAN TRAIN:

- The only obvious difference between a “soft-sleeper” and “hard-sleeper” berth is the cost.
- While there are ATMs scattered everywhere, it’s always good to have a little local currency. That said, Mongolian currency is virtually impossible to exchange, so try to unload it on another traveller heading the opposite directions.
- There is no shower on the train.
- Eating nothing but instant noodles will leave you pretty constipated.

- While I was able to arrange visas and tickets on the road, it’s best to do so before you leave.
- Russia doesn’t seem to want tourists, as evidenced by the registration requirements, lack of English, and general rudeness of their consular staff.
- Remember that as difficult as the Russian visa process is, it is even more so for Russians coming to Canada.
- For further information, check out this excellent site www.seat61.com/Trans-Siberian.htm



social intercourse



Sean Paul

Thursday, February 25 at 9 p.m.
Edmonton Event Centre (8882-1/0 St.)
\$29.95 at Ticketmaster

The Jamaican dancehall singer brings some island rhythms straight from Kingston to the winter wilds of Canada. Well-known for his extensive affinity for collaboration, he's recorded with artists as diverse as Snoop Dogg and Ross Stone. Those unfamiliar with his music can listen to his latest album streaming on his website. Those unfamiliar with dancehall can expect a variant of reggae that's lyrically less focused upon religious and political themes, instead embracing a love of dancing and partying. It's generally more upbeat as well, which should ensure a great night. While Buju Banton is often considered to be the king of dancehall, this young musician has had unmatched success in North America, with numerous hit singles over the last few years.

CJ Ramone

With *Let's Dance and No Problem*
Friday, February 26 at 9 p.m.
New City Suburbs (10081 Jasper Ave.)
\$15 advance at Megatunes or \$20 at the door

Often cited as the man who kept the Ramones young, C.J. replaced Dee Dee in the lineup during the last seven years of their life. Twenty years later, he's hitting the road to celebrate the Ramones' 35th anniversary by playing their songs live once again. Few would disagree that these skinny, leather-jacket-wearing boys from New York were anything less than one of the most important punk bands to ever stand on a stage. One of the few left standing, it would be a good idea to check out one of last Ramones while there is still time.

Alvin Youngblood Hart

Saturday, February 27 at 8 p.m.
Sunday February 28 at 8 p.m.
Blue Chair Café (9624-76 Ave.)
\$35 at the door

Living up to his nickname, Hart plays blues-influenced roots rock with a level of skill that is usually reserved for legends old enough to be his granddaddy. Much like his former tourmate Ben Harper, his diverse musical style deftly crosses multiple genres. His performance is a part of the Winter Blues and Roots Round-Up, which goes from Thursday, February 25 to Sunday, February 28 in various venues around the city, including the Yardbird Suite and Fiddler's Roost. Throughout the weekend, numerous shows will showcase different musicians, both from around North America, and local talent like Terry McDade and The Swiftys' Grant Stovel.

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN

Got the right temperature to be keepin' you warm

Edmontonian scores title of best Wingman

After scouring the country, Pizza Hut has crowned Derek Scott as Canada's most worthy wingman



SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

After several months of searching and receiving hundreds of entries, Pizza Hut has ended their hunt for Canada's Ultimate Wingman, and have awarded nearly \$10,000 worth of cash and prizes to Edmontonians Steven Diachuk and his wingman Derek Scott. The pair will both fly out to Las Vegas and be put up in a luxury hotel with \$1,000 cash each, \$1,500 in casino gift certificates, \$1,000 in Pizza Hut gift cards, and of course, bragging rights to last a lifetime.

I met up with the duo at Sherlock Holmes pub downtown to chat about the contest. They've both arrived before me, and are working on a pitcher of Keith's. Diachuk, an Education student at the University of Alberta, says he heard about the contest while ordering pizza one night, and on a whim, decided to enter his friend of 10 years into the contest without telling him. Three weeks ago, he called his buddy and broke the good news to him that he'd won.

"He called me and said, 'Guess who Canada's Wingman is?' And I'm thinking the answer is going to be Steven Diachuk, and he's says, 'you are!,'" Scott says.

The pair met a decade ago when both were working at Athlete's World in West Edmonton Mall. Scott was the "new kid on the retail block," and Diachuk admits that he may have been a tad jealous that Scott was selling a few more Nikes than he was, cutting into his commission.

"It was kind of funny, actually. [Steve] didn't like me when I first started," Scott laughs. "He thought I was stealing his thunder."

During a slow shift, Scott's parents had decided to drop by the store and see how their son was doing with his new job. Unbeknownst to him, his dad was a regular customer at the Keg, where Diachuk was also working part-time during the lunch rush.

"As I'm walking up to my dad, [Steve] runs up to him yelling 'Dad!' to my dad, and my dad answers,

'Hey son, how's it going?' I was, like, 'What the hell is going on? Are you stealing my dad?' It turns out that my dad went there often enough for lunch that they started calling each other 'Son' and 'Dad.' And then [Steve] stopped being mean to me and we were friends," Scott says.

A waitress stops by our table to let us know her shift has finished, and asks if we can clear up before she heads home. Without batting a lash, Scott reaches for his wallet and treats the table to the first round.

"The most quintessential thing about a good wingman is the ability to share in a good laugh."

STEVE DIACHUK
ON HIS WINGMAN DEREK SCOTT

"That's a good wingman right there — let this be an example," smiles Diachuk.

In Scott's illustrious 10 years as Diachuk's wingman, there's still one event that stands out for Diachuk as being especially poignant in their friendship: when Scott helped him to meet his longtime girlfriend Suzie. Another of Diachuk's friends had arranged for him to meet her at a concert, but having seen only unflattering photos, he decided to call in his back up.

"They ended up really hitting it off, Steve and Suzie, so obviously I wanted them to have some time alone together," Scott says. "So I spent a lot of time with Steve's friend talking about whatever so that she wasn't bored."

"Derek is a good wingman because he's a good compromiser, a good introducer of intellectual conversation, and he brings a good laugh. The most quintessential thing about a good wingman is the ability to share in a good laugh," Diachuk says.

For the next half hour or so, we talk about music, work, and the Olympics. I almost forget that we're

doing an interview, and both Scott and Diachuk ask me even more questions than I ask them. Diachuk also shares that during the past week, he was lucky enough to be one of the Olympic torch bearers. In fact, having just come from giving a presentation to an elementary school about the torch, he has it with him in the pub.

"It's totally rewarding. The kids get really excited about it," he says.

And for the record, "Want to hold the torch?" is a pretty good line, too.

Within moments of unsheathing the torch, the two have half of the bar charmed. Several couples, groups of friends, and even the owner of the bar come over and ask to take photos with it, and Diachuk graciously juggles digital cameras and cell phones until everyone who wants a picture has one. After that, none of us have to pay for any drinks, as other tables send "thank-you" pitchers and highballs our way for the rest of the night.

"It's one of those things," Diachuk says. "If you throw out good Karma to people, you'll usually get it back."

"If the contest can do anything besides giving us a good time [in Vegas], hopefully it can be to change the crappy connotation of wingman. When my girlfriend first heard it, she thought it was kind of sleazy," admits Scott.

"It should just mean that you're a good friend who watches out for his buddies."

They tell me they're planning on taking the trip in late April or early May after exams are finished and once it's easier to book some time off of work. And after a decade of road trips that have mostly been on shoestring budgets, they're looking forward to being a little frivolous.

"I'll have to see what my poker face is like," Diachuk jokes.

"You aren't a poker guy though!" Scott says.

"It's true," Diachuk admits. "I get too giddy."

What happens in Vegas may stay in Vegas, but chances are, if you're willing to share a few pints with Diachuk and Scott, they'll gladly share their stories with you anyway.

Rapture's second coming satisfies



gamereview

BioShock 2

Developed by 2K Marin, 2K Australia, 2K China

Published by 2K Games

Now Available on Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Microsoft Windows
Rated M

BRUCE CINNAMON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

2K's return to Rapture, the individualist utopia-turned-chaotic-nightmare at the bottom of the Atlantic, has arrived. The player takes the role of the first Big Daddy, Subject Delta, who must battle his way through the cityscape to reunite with his original Little Sister, Eleanor Lamb. Eleanor's mother Sofia, a collectivist social psychiatrist and mother of the "Rapture Family," will do anything in her power to stop him.

Regrettably, *BioShock 2* has suffered the fate of all video-game sequels: its gameplay is infinitely improved, but its story and characters are nowhere near the quality of its predecessor. While the original Rapture was dominated by the Objectivist rhetoric of antagonist Andrew Ryan booming over the loudspeakers, the sequel lacks a charismatic villain. Sofia Lamb, Ryan's philosophical opposite, can't quite pull off the tyrant act, leading one to ask why she remains in this haunted city at all.

The player's immediate disappointment comes from the inability to return to levels when he's finished playing them. This also creates

the unfortunate situation of characters disappearing from the game before we get the chance to learn more about them. Bridgid Tenenbaum, the guide and anti-heroine of the first instalment, is apparently given the same role on the first level, then mysteriously is never heard from again. As well, though not a truly justifiable complaint, the inability to return to any of the levels from the first game in the single player story is regrettable. Those who wished to see the "10 years later" version of their favourite level will have to wait for 2011's *BioShock 3*.

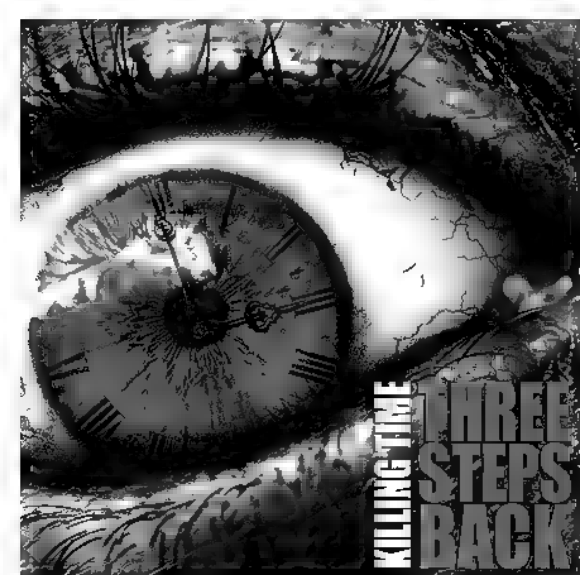
The levels themselves, while more expansive, are less distinct than those of the original *BioShock*. From Arcadia, Julie Langford's underwater arboretum, to Fort Frolic, and Sander Cohen's disturbing playpen, each level was built around a particular theme to complement the eccentricities of its keeper. In *BioShock 2*, we travel from Siren Alley, a red light district; to Pauper's Drop, a shanty town; to Dionysus Park, a flooded entertainment sector. But despite their different purposes, they all end up blurring together.

The game's environment is still second to none, more eerily beautiful and artistically unique than any other game on the market. But unlike its precursor, *BioShock 2* is almost too saturated with minute details of decay and disintegration. The player is overwhelmed by the dreariness of the setting, which does not relent no matter which level he goes to, unlike the visually "happier" and cleaner levels of *BioShock* like the Farmer's Market or Hephaestus.

The greatest asset of the *BioShock* franchise is the enormous personalities that dominate the underwater dystopia. To be honest with ourselves, we don't really respect voice actors, do we? But this series of games have proven how impressive and thrilling a voice-acting performance can be. Of course, the dialogue (or more often, monologue) written for the larger-than-life characters, is equally strong.

The greatest triumph of the sequel is in the gameplay itself. In the original, upon seeing the Big Daddies for the first time and learning we would become one, we all felt a secret giddiness about being able to kill legions of Splicers with a massive drill attached to our arm. Although that wish was disappointed, it's now a reality. In addition to the kickass drill, we get to shoot red-hot rivets, throw people through the air with telekinetic powers, and nail them to the wall with a spear gun. Gone are the crappy wrench and useless pistol — now we get some big toys to play with. Gone, too, is the "goo maze" hacking system, and in its place, we need only to hit the right section on a sliding scale.

Unfortunately, any review of a sequel inevitably draws comparisons to the original, and thereby reveals its shortcomings. But as a singular piece of work, *BioShock 2* is an amazingly dense game, replete with well-developed characters, provocative themes, unique stylistic elements, innovative storytelling techniques, and unparalleled action in the FPS genre. Like its precursor, it's as much a work of art, or a piece of literature, as it is a video-game.



albumreview

Killing Time

Three Steps Back
Dead City Records

JON GRIER
Arts & Entertainment Writer

I used to work a dead-end job with a real old-school punk, and on the topic of his particular music, he bestowed some wisdom along the lines of, "if it sounds good, it's not punk rock." Make no mistake, *Three Steps Back* by Killing Time is punk rock.

That's not to say it doesn't sound good — it sounds like "punk." Take that however you like it.

I listened to some cuts from old albums, and the band's done a great job retaining their garage feel after a lengthy disbanding. The header track

"Flight Plan" brings the album to a ferocious start. It's the kind of track you can kick off anything with. After the second-half mark, two strong songs — "Inheritance" and "Half Empty" — sound pretty bitchin' to a punk layman like myself.

The only other huge problem is that the other songs sound quite similar to one another, so you're probably not going to walk away from the album with a distinct memory of each track. It's an album with bite and plenty of energy. Punk fans will eat it up, but for anyone else, it's a fair addition to an aggressive drive-time playlist. Take a step back before you judge it.



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All terms run from 1 May 2010 to 30 April 2011. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Six issues of the *Gateway* will be produced over the summer months. All line editors will be expected to train on at least three of the six summer issues (unless granted leave by the hiring committee) for an honorarium of \$113/issue*. In their full-time capacities, the salaries for each position are as follows: Managing and Senior News will receive \$1889.05* per month, all other line editors will receive \$1532.06* per month. Please note that candidates may apply for no more than two (2) positions, except by special dispensation of the Line Editor Selection Committee.

Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Ashleigh Brown, 492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 11 March 2010.** Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase

** Complete job descriptions (subject to change) are available at www.thegatewayonline.ca/jobs

Deviations from zombie lore both help and hurt *Crazies* remake

filmreview

The Crazies

Directed by Breck Eisner
Starring Timothy Olyphant, Radha Mitchell, Joe Anderson, Danielle Panabaker, and Preston Bailey
Opens February 26

MIKE DADURAL
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Back in the late 1960s, zombies were depicted as slow, shuffling undead monsters that every man, woman, and child could outrun without ever breaking a sweat. But come 2004, and the release of the *Dawn of the Dead* remake, the world is introduced to the terrifying “fast zombies,” which added a new level of terror, seeing as you now had to put a little more effort into outrunning these guys.

This brings us to 2010's latest offering to the zombie genre, *The Crazies*, a film that once again hopes to reinvent the zombie movie by going back in time, channelling the original film of the same name, which was made in 1973.

The film takes place in the minuscule farming town of Ogden Marsh, Iowa. After a mysterious toxin pollutes the town's water supply, the townspeople of Ogden Marsh become violently insane, murder in cold blood, suddenly die, and then mysteriously come back to life to once again kill anybody that is not infected. This leaves only a small group of people, led by the town sheriff (Timothy Olyphant) and his deputy (Joe Anderson), to fend for themselves. — not only from the “zombies,” but also from the military forces who are sent to the town to quarantine the area.

Let's get one thing straight: those of you who expect a run-of-the-mill zombie film like *28 Days Later* will be surprised at the fact that the “zombies”



have human abilities, such as the ability to speak full and coherent sentences, wield weapons, and operate a carwash.

While it's exciting to watch this take on the zombie film genre, it just doesn't feel like it fits in with the character. By giving the “zombies” in the film more life, they seem more like psychopaths, rather than the hungry, undead entities that we've all come to know and fear.

But even with this makeover, it doesn't hamper the overall plot of the film. The zombies themselves add this sense of distress because they still possess regular physical and intellectual abilities, even when they have risen from the grave. Also, having the film set in a farming town rather than a huge urban centre made the film a lot more claustrophobic and engaging. As the film progresses, you're drawn in by the fact that this peaceful town of Ogden Marsh is transforming into a nightmarish hunting ground.

While the plot is engaging, the execution is clichéd, and doesn't add much to the genre. Like most zombie films, *The Crazies* revolves around a group of survivors who must escape to greener pastures avoiding both the military,

who are ordered to “prevent the spread of infection” by killing anything that moves, as well as the infected, who can't help but killing anything that moves.

The focus of the film is all over the place. Oftentimes, there are moments where you would find yourself really engaged with what is happening onscreen, then the film would suddenly cut to a random and unnecessary military satellite screenshot, taking you away from the film.

Even with a formulaic plot, the characters were still likeable due to the solid performances given by Olyphant and Anderson, as well as the evenly paced character development as the film progressed. While the script is what you'd come to expect from a zombie film (screaming, cursing, and heavy breathing), the characters still remained believable and real.

While it isn't the greatest zombie movie of all time, it still gains something new in being brought back to the screen after more than 35 years. Some fans may be let down with the film's different take on the zombie lore, but it's definitely a fresh take on the undead story that is still enjoyable to watch.

Basia Bulat ponders Polish roots, Olympics

musicpreview

Basia Bulat

With Katie Stemanis
Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)
Wednesday, March 3 at 8 p.m.
\$15 at Ticketmaster

JANE VOLOBOEVA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

“No one's making huge amounts of money; everyone is doing it for love,” says London, Ontario based folk singer Basia Bulat, when asked about the Olympics. Canadian-raised with a Polish background, Bulat says that when it comes to the question of who to cheer for, it's not as simple as choosing a country.

“I don't really cheer for anybody,” says Bulat, adding that she's “more into the individual” that's competing, rather than their nationality. “Everyone is going for the same things, and everybody has their reasons why they're competing.”

Bulat's outlook on the individual was partially sparked by studying one of her favorite authors, Charlotte Brontë, at Western University.

“There's a lot of self-assertion, and an identity purpose that's being worked through [in her books],”



relates Bulat. “[Brontë] really speaks to me, ever since I was a little girl,” she says, adding with admiration that *Jane Eyre* is among her favourite books. [Eyre's] basically looking for life in her own terms, love in her own terms, and everything on her own terms as much as possible.”

Bulat transfers her admiration of Brontë and “living on her own terms” to her new album *Heart of My Own*. On the record, she's incorporated many different and unusual instruments, including the autoharp.

“I approach [the autoharp] as I do any other instrument, [...] A lot of other people seem to view it as a novelty, but I think it has a place among all

the other instruments in the world,” explains Bulat of her fascination with the instrument.

Growing up as a Polish-Canadian, Bulat admits that she wasn't as connected to the Slavic part of her heritage as she'd liked to have been, but during the holidays, her family made sure to make Polish traditions an important part of their celebrations.

“My family spoke English at home, so the things that connected me to Poland were cultural traditions and customs at Christmas and Easter and things like that,” recalls Bulat.

“I think a lot of people are in that position, their parents weren't born in Canada, but the kids were, and you're sort of in between. [It's] not something that's necessarily a unique experience, but I think it's kind of great that there are a lot of people going through this experience together,” she says.

“People with more than just a Canadian background are so lucky to have two places to call home and two histories to be proud of.”

Bulat's unique outlook on her cultural heritage is especially poignant at a time when the West coast is flooded with individuals from over 200 different nations, sharing in the Olympic experience. “It all comes down to a personal best; I don't think any country ‘wins’ the Olympics,” she concludes.

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NATURAL LIFE & MENTAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

INFORMATION SESSION

**Wednesday, March 3
Noon to 1 p.m.**

Business Building, Room 4-9

Hired Gun to release short film on smoking

filmpreview

Honest You Won't Get Hooked

Directed by Ben Babchishin
Produced by Ben Babchishin, Susanne Hunka, Betty Hushlak, and Dale Ladouceur
Starring Murray Cullen, Linda Grass, and Andy Northrup
Playing one night only at New City Likwid Lounge (10081 Jasper Ave)
Free
Available online March 1 at www.hiredgunfilms.com

SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

When it comes to quitting, Ben Babchishin is a successful son-of-a-gun. After spending decades working in television, the local writer, producer, and director decided that the only way to jumpstart his career as a filmmaker was to leave his day job. Ten years later, he's got a roster of 10 short films, three nationally broadcast documentaries, and numerous advertising credits under his belt, and he's about to add to that list.

"I turned 40 and thought that all I'd ever really wanted to do was make movies, and if I didn't start now, I better. So I quit my job [as creative director at CFRN] and started Hired Gun Productions," he says.

Now, with the help of a creative team of several dozen Edmonton-based artists, he's preparing to release Hired Gun's latest film, *Honest You Won't Get Hooked*, a dark comedy about a dirty little habit — smoking. I join Babchishin and three of his actors — Murray Cullen, Linda Grass, and Andy Northrup — at



the Commodore Restaurant on Jasper Avenue to chat about the film, and before long, I learn that quitting, too, has played another important role for Babchishin with this film.

"One of the reasons I did this film is because I'm kind of annoyed at the way smokers are treated — I used to be a smoker," says Babchishin, who gave up cigarettes eight years ago. "I'm an ex-smoker, so I'm really militant about it and I wish everyone would quit, but I still appreciate the fact that people smoke, like Andy or Murray here, who need to quit pretty soon," he says, gesturing to two of his leads.

"It's a sad truth that if tobacco doesn't get us, the non-smokers will," jokes Northrup.

While Babchishin, Cullen, Grass, and Northrup all agree that the film doesn't portray smoking in a positive light, they're quick to add that the point of *Honest You Won't Get Hooked* isn't to alienate smokers and shame them for their habit, but rather to point out how ridiculous both smokers and non-smokers can be.

"[My character Joanne] is being interviewed in the film because she's an ex-smoker, and so she tells the interviewer what a breeze it is to quit smoking [...] as we find out during the interview, she's only quit smoking for 12 minutes," laughs Grass.

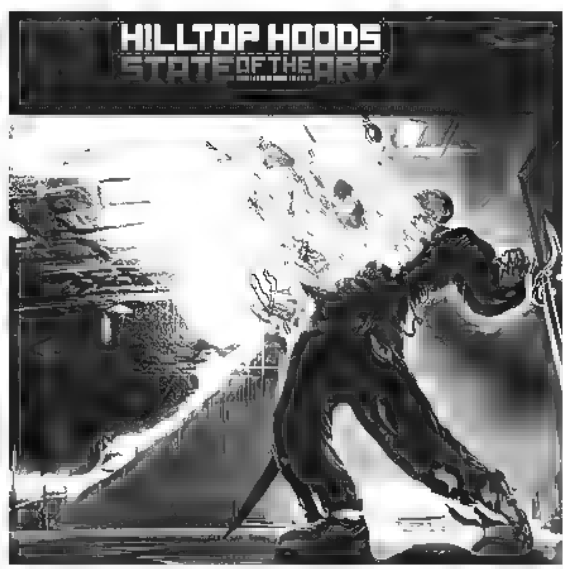
On the other side of the spectrum is Cullen's character, Georgie, who ties the film's several vignettes together.

"[Georgie] is the hardcore smoker who isn't phased by what is said, and isn't really being affected except for his health," says Cullen. "He's a bitter, resentful, awful, quite unpleasant person."

"And that's with the cigarettes!" adds Linda.

In addition to providing a satirical look at the culture of smoking, Babchishin says he's also hoping that by making this film available for free on his website, it'll get more people interested in Hired Gun Films and the company's next project, a feature-length road movie titled *Stella's Dead in the Back of the Truck*.

Though Babchishin's been able to quit his day job and kick cigarettes for good, it sounds like filmmaking is going to be a habit that sticks.



albumreview

Hilltop Hoods

State of the Art
Golden Era Records

EMMA BROOK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

If you're looking for gangsta beats about sex, drugs, and rolling around in cash, then Hilltop Hoods' fifth album, *State of the Art*, is just not for you. But, if you're looking for innovative and provocative tracks, then this CD fits the bill. These guys have an old-school '90s hip-hop sound with a modern twist that features jazz, rock, and even West Indian influences.

State of the Art lives up to its name. It doesn't feature flashy Auto-Tune, but it's got the quick, tight lyrics, not to mention the hot Aussie accents of Emcees Suffa and Pressure, and the original, hard-hitting mixes of DJ Debris. The songs range from sarcastic and hilarious, to serious, even getting a little political on "Fifty in Five." You'll hear about zombie attacks, a 50-year history lesson, tough break-ups, as well as just how awesome these guys are. They're in your face and cocky.

This is an album that you can dance to or that you can just sit, listen, and nod your head to, while wearing your oversized hoodie pulled up over your head. The Hilltop Hoods' music is a refreshing change from the usual, overproduced crap that gets released so often these days.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS 2010 TO BE OR NOT TO BE? IT'S UP TO YOU!

2010 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The following referendum questions will appear on the ballot of this year's March 3 and 4 Students' Union Election.

MILLENNIUM VILLAGES

Do you support the establishment of a Millennium Villages Dedicated Fee, subject to the following conditions:

- The fee shall be assessed to both full and part time students at a rate of \$7.50 per term*, not to be levied more than twice per academic year*, subject to the following conditions:
 - The fee shall be initiated in the Summer 2010 term*,
 - The fee shall increase annually at a rate equal to the Alberta Consumer Price Index,
 - The fee shall expire on June 30, 2020, or at such a time that a successful referendum is conducted to rescind the fee, and
 - Students may opt out of this fee online and unconditionally.
- A Millennium Villages committee be formed to:
 - Manage and transfer collected funds to Millennium Promise†,
 - Maintain regular communication with Millennium Promise†,
 - Report on, market, and publicize the transfer of funds in a transparent and accountable way, and
 - Advertise the opt-out deadline.
- The Millennium Villages committee shall appoint one member to the Students' Union Social Responsibility Committee, and include at least one Students' Council member appointed by Students' Council in its membership.

* As defined by the 2009/2010 University of Alberta academic calendar.
† Millennium Promise is an external organization which administers the Millennium Villages Project.

UNIVERSAL BUS PASS (U-PASS)

Do you support the continuation of a Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) subject to the following conditions:

- The U-Pass would provide unlimited usage of regular transit service through Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit during the Fall and/or Winter Terms to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit within the participating municipalities service area.
- The cost of the U-Pass to each student would be mandatory, and would be
 - \$91.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2010/2011 academic year,
 - \$104.17 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2011/2012 academic year, and
 - \$116.67 per term in Fall and Winter terms for the 2012/2013 academic year
- The following students may opt-out of the U-Pass:
 - Students enrolled in work-experience, co-op, or a practicum outside of the participating municipalities service area for a majority of a term;
 - Students unable to make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability; and
 - Students employed by Edmonton Transit System, St. Albert Transit, or Strathcona County Transit.
- Students enrolled at Augustana are exempt from the U-Pass.
- The Students' Union shall be authorized to enter into the necessary contractual agreements with participating municipalities and the University of Alberta, contingent upon the inclusion of acceptable transparency and accountability provisions.
- The U-Pass would expire upon the passing of a referendum to that effect, or the Students' Union deciding that it can no longer adhere to any of (1) through (5).

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WELLNESS CENTRE (PAW)

Do you support the establishment of a non-instructional fee subject to the following conditions:

- The fee would be dedicated to the construction of a new Physical Activity and Wellness (PAW) Centre on North Campus as well as concurrent upgrades to the Van Vliet Physical Education and Recreation Centre.
- The fee would be assessed in each term to undergraduate students enrolled in at least one course for credit, subject to the following conditions:
 - The fee shall be no greater than \$29.00 per term in Fall and Winter Terms;
 - The fee shall be no greater than \$14.50 per term in Spring and Summer Terms;
 - The fee shall be optional for:
 - students that are registered only in courses designated as off-campus;
 - students that are registered only in courses at Augustana campus;
 - The fee shall provide unrestricted use of the PAW Centre during its hours of operation to each undergraduate student currently paying the fee;
 - The fee shall not be assessed until the construction of the facility is complete and the student component is operational;
 - The fee shall be assessed for a period no longer than 35 years, or until the costs incurred in (1) have been recovered, whichever is first; and
 - Undergraduate students would be unable to alter or rescind the fee.
- There shall be a committee established for the PAW Centre that shall:
 - have an overall student majority;
 - provide strategic direction for the student component of the building program; and
 - establish budget principles annually.
- A building agreement is established between the Governors of the University of Alberta and the University of Alberta Students' Union that is subject to approval by Students' Council.

For more information about the elections process or the registration of sides meeting, please contact Jennifer Huygen, Chief Returning Officer at cro@su.ualberta.ca or visit www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

If you are interested in being involved in campaigning for a referendum, please come to the Candidates Meeting on February 12th at 18:00 in SUB 3-06 and become a registered member of a Yes or No side. You must attend this meeting to become a registered member. At this meeting the Campaign Manager for each side will be selected by and from the registered members.



SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, february 25, 2010

Basketball Pandas welcome UBC for Can West playoffs

NATHAN LIEWICKI
Sports Staff

After a three-week break, the Pandas basketball team will return to the hardwood of the Main Gym this weekend for their best-of-three Canada West quarterfinal series with the UBC Thunderbirds.

A season-ending nine-game win streak propelled the Pandas to second position in the Prairie Division, and thus the right to play at home in the quarterfinal round. The T-Birds finished regular season play with an 11-7 record, but enter the playoffs having dropped four of their last five ball games.

The Pandas and T-Birds met in West Vancouver in mid-November with the Pandas coming away with a sloppy 57-53 victory. Both teams put on horrible shooting displays in that game, but a season-high 37 trips to the charity stripe helped Pandas overcome their poor shooting performance.

"Both teams are so different from the first term and so we aren't putting much stock into the first game, but it gives us a confidence of knowing that we can beat UBC," Pandas head coach Scott Edwards asserted.

Pushing the ball inside toward the rim and creating secondary scoring opportunities with strong offensive rebounding has been a staple in the Alberta offensive attack all season long, and against the T-Birds, it will be no different.

"It's the mentality of our team every night to pound the ball inside. We try to use our speed and athleticism to get to the glass as much as we can, and our forwards finish well in the paint," Edwards explained.

Defensively, the Pandas will need to step up and defend the three-point line against UBC.

The T-Birds generate most of their offence from beyond the arc, shooting a conference leading 35.9 per cent from downtown during the regular season.

The Pandas three-point defense, however, was the best in Canada West — opponents made only 25 per cent of all three-point attempts. Moreover, Edwards' squad finished the regular season with the conference's second-best defence in Canada West.

"UBC shoots the three very well, and against them our focus is to try and take that away from them. Our goal defensively is to get all of our opponents to pull up on the dribble, especially against a strong three-point shooting team like UBC," Edwards noted.

Six Pandas will be making their Canada West playoff debuts this weekend, but inexperience won't be a factor in the playoffs. Emily Bolduc, Marisa Haylett, and Alysia Rissling boast a plethora of conference and CIS playoff experience and wisdom which they can pass down to the post-season rookies.

One player whose playoff experience will be sorely missed is Nicole Clarke. She's missed the last 10 games with a broken bone in her left foot and has been ruled out for the remainder of the season.

Edwards hopes the factors of comfort and familiarity playing at home will help minimize the nerves of his players, but knows defeating UBC will be difficult.

"In a best-of-three series, the team that is more mentally tough and is quicker to overcome mistakes has the best shot of winning," Edwards said. Action between the Pandas and T-Birds takes place Friday and Saturday night at 7 p.m. Game 3, if necessary, is scheduled for 2 p.m., with the winner headed to the conference final four.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

BIRD BATTLE Josephine Peacock (left) and the Pandas start their campaign to return the national tournament this weekend hosting the UBC Thunderbirds in a best-of-three series at the Main Gym.

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

PANDAS BASKETBALL FRI., FEB. 26/SAT., FEB. 27

Alberta vs. UBC
7:00 p.m., Main Gym

SUN., FEB. 28 - If necessary
2:00 p.m., Main Gym



VS.



BEARS BASKETBALL THU., FEB. 25/FRI., FEB. 26

Alberta @ UBC
9:00 p.m., War Memorial Gym - Vancouver
SAT., FEB. 27 - If necessary
9:00 p.m., War Memorial Gym - Vancouver



VS.



PANDAS HOCKEY FRI., FEB. 26/SAT., FEB. 27

Alberta vs. UBC
7:00 p.m., Clare Drake Arena
SUN., FEB. 28 (If necessary)
2:00 p.m., Clare Drake Arena



VS.



Hoop Bears head to Vancouver looking to upset T-Birds

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Coming off a lengthy layoff, the Golden Bears basketball squad will be looking to make the most of their second life this weekend as they travel to the Olympic City to take on the UBC Thunderbirds for a best-of-three Canada West quarterfinal series.

The Bears squeaked into the postseason with a 10-10 regular season record, and will be going up against the nation's number-one ranked team who, like the Green and Gold, have seen little game-action in recent weeks.

While the Bears and T-Birds both have had an abundance of practice time since the regular season wrapped up, Bears head coach Greg Francis thinks the time off will benefit his young roster.

"I think for us, as a young team, it will make us clean up a few things that we needed to work on," Francis said.

"I think both teams will lose a little bit of gamesmanship, but at the same time, I think it hurts a veteran team a bit more to have a long time off, and for us we should be able to play with some excitement playing in our first playoff series for 80 per cent of our team. I'm really looking forward to seeing how our guys react to it."

Heading into the weekend going up against the top-ranked team in the country, who went 17-1 in the regular season, the Bears are undoubtedly the heavy underdogs. However, they're entering the series having played desperation basketball down the stretch just to make it into the postseason, and have carried that into practice as well.

"I like the way we've played the last month or so of the regular season," Francis pointed out. "I'm happy with the way guys have been practicing and approaching these games mentally."

With one of the best backcourts in the country,



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

KNEADING AN UPSET Rookie sensation Jordan Baker (left) will be looking to lead an upset over UBC.

led by Canada West's third-leading scorer Josh Whyte, the Bears will have to shut Whyte and the rest of the backcourt down if they hope to score the upset in Vancouver.

"Josh Whyte, Blain LaBranche, and then they come in with Nathan Yu off the bench, who could start for most teams — they have a lot of offensive firepower there, and when they're shooting the ball well, they're very tough. They can score in the 80s and 90s when they're shooting the ball well, so we'll have to contain the three and that's probably what we've done best in Canada West in terms of defending the three-point line."

"They've won a lot of close games, and I think that happens when you have very veteran guards that know how to make plays down the stretch

of the game. We'll have to play well to stay in it, but then to really execute late in the game against them and play better than we have all season."

Despite losing their lone meeting of the season to the T-Birds on the road back on November 14 in a 75-68 decision, Francis feels his squad matches up well this time around in an underdog role.

"We match up very well with them with our personnel. Our size is good, but our size is pretty mobile," Francis explained. "I think we really match up with them up front, so I think that's where our point of attack has to be."

The Bears will look to score the upset this weekend in Van City, as they take on the T-Birds Thursday, Friday, and if necessary, Saturday in Canada West quarterfinal action.



FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

Puck Pandas ready to jump-start playoff campaign against Regina

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

Newly crowned CIS scoring queen Tarin Podloski and her Pandas hockey teammates welcome the Regina Cougars to Clare Drake Arena this weekend for their best-of-three Canada West quarterfinal series.

After finishing the regular season with a stellar 23-1-0 mark, the Pandas are now set to host a Regina team they defeated in all four conference matchups, surrendering only two goals against combined over those meetings. Regina has struggled this season to score, having netted 43 goals compared to the Pandas conference-leading tally of 93, and will be looking to force the Pandas into penalty trouble if they want any chance of keeping up with Alberta's torrid offensive pace. For head coach Howie Draper's side, quickness will be key to neutralizing any Regina chances at scoring the upset.

"We're focusing on high tempo. We want to make sure that we're working on moving our feet all the time both on offence and defence, and when we're not moving our feet against quicker teams, we tend to take more penalties, obviously. We want to be the more disciplined team this weekend. I think they'll likely draw a few penalties given their grit

and intensity," Draper said. Having waltzed through the regular season with only a single loss, the Pandas enter the postseason in the familiar position of being the favourites to emerge from Canada West en route to the national tournament.

After failing to do so last season in a heartbreaking three-game series at home against the Manitoba Bisons, this year means that much more for a squad that's out for redemption.

"I think this team in particular, more so than any team in year's past, has been looking forward to playoffs. There was unfinished business resulting out of last season, and right at the start [of the season] the players indicated — as we all did — that we didn't want to be on the outside looking in again, so we've been looking forward to this moment," Draper said.

"There's very little that I have to do to bring their absolute best throughout the playoffs. I'm looking forward to seeing exactly what they bring."

Within the current squad of Pandas looking to avenge last season's disappointment, CIS' new all-time women's hockey scoring leader and team captain Tarin Podloski will be relied on heavily to lead Alberta back to nationals. After setting the single-season scoring record last year with her 61-point campaign, Podloski will be looking to continue to

lead by example on the ice, as well as off the ice, as the team's unquestioned leader.

"One of the things that Tarin needs to prove to herself is that she can lead a team through a national championship," Draper explained.

While Podloski, a fifth-year senior, was on the Pandas national championship squad back in 2006, one of the few things she has yet to do is take a team on her shoulders and lead them to the coveted CIS title — something she's now in the position to do.

"I think maybe in some circumstances when she's had the opportunity to do that, the pressure has been a little bit too great for her. Now I get the sense that she's a much more mature individual, and I really feel that she's developed in terms of her mental toughness," Draper explained.

"She's way more consistent than she used to be, and now I really think is her time to shine and jump out of that foxhole first, and have everyone follow her to war. I'm quite confident that she's going to do an outstanding job with that."

Puck drop goes this Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and again Sunday at 2 p.m. if necessary, with all games going at Clare Drake Arena.

careerrecap



TARIN PODLOSKI

- 2004/05 Canada West rookie of the year
- 2006 CIS national champion and national tournament MVP
- 2007 CIS tournament all-star
- Set single season scoring record in 2008/09 with 61 points
- CIS and Canada West player-of-the-year in 2008-09
- First team All-Canadian and All-Star in 2008/09
- CIS women's hockey all-time leading scorer
- Former member of Canada's women's U-22 national team

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Season	Team	League	GP	G	A	Pts	PIM
2004-05	Alberta	CWUAA	17	13	18	31	6
2005-06	Alberta	CWUAA	20	14	14	28	10
2006-07	Alberta	CWUAA	22	19	31	50	4
2008-09	Alberta	CWUAA	24	23	38	61	12
2009-10	Alberta	CWUAA	24	22	21	43	12
CAREER TOTALS			107	91	122	213	44

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gateway student journalism society

STUDENT-AT-LARGE REQUIRED

The Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) requires a student-at-large from the University community to serve on its board of directors for the term ending 30 April, 2011.

Applicants must be U of A undergraduate students and may not be members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors, or the Senate of the University of Alberta.

If you are interested, please submit a brief note (no more than 400 words) on what makes you a good candidate for this position no later than noon on Friday, 19 March, 2010 to the Chair of the GSJS board. Submissions can be made by email to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca, or through the campus mail to Ashleigh Brown, c/o Gateway Student Journalism Society, 3-04 SUB.

Please outline previous volunteer experience and not-for-profit organization experience if applicable (though none is explicitly required).

TUESDAYS ON THE WOOFLOP

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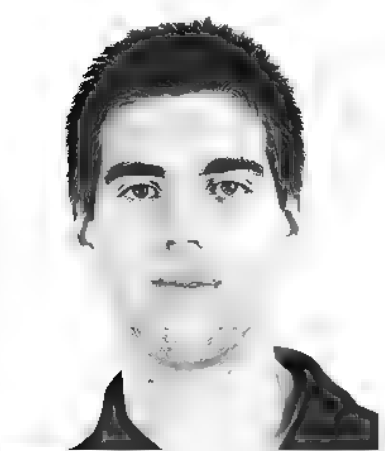
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NHL needs to strike deal with IIHF and IOC

Despite the fact that the NHL's agreement to play in the Olympics has been far from perfect, the league has been put in the position where they need to stay



EVAN DAUM

Sports Commentary

While we here in Canada have been glued to our television sets watching the Olympic hockey tournament in primetime on any of the CTV media consortium's three major networks, many of our cousins to the South have been left out in the cold when it comes to the same coverage, as NBC has relegated the Games' premier event to its cable channel MSNBC.

The decision to have hockey play second fiddle to other events has been met with harsh criticism by many in the United States, especially hockey fans who haven't been given the same level of coverage we've enjoyed here in the hockey-mad Great White North.

NBC, who owns the NHL's network rights in the U.S. has, without a doubt, fumbled their coverage opting to push the Canada-U.S. game this past Sunday night to MSNBC in favour of ice dancing. This latest snub for the NHL raises an interesting question: why should the NHL sacrifice two weeks of its season when it isn't getting the publicity it had hoped for with its Olympic experiment?

The answer to that question isn't cut and dry, but when the NHL decided

to opt in for the 1998 Olympic Games in Nagano, it set a dangerous precedent for its future participation at the Olympics, and now finds itself in more than just a tough situation.

It seems that from the very moment the NHL decided that the Olympics was a valuable stage to showcase not only the game of hockey, but also the league's stars, commissioner Gary Bettman and all parties involved entered into an agreement that was going to culminate in the league finding itself between the proverbial rock and a hard place.

With superstars like Alexander Ovechkin coming out to openly support the NHL's future involvement with the Olympics — Ovie has pledged to play in Sochi, Russia for the 2014 Olympics regardless of whether the NHL permits its players to participate — the league is in a lose-lose situation.

There's no question that the vast majority of NHL fans are hooked on seeing hockey's best competing every four years for their countries at the Olympics. There's nothing like seeing the best the sport has to offer compete at the same time as the rest of the world's best winter athletes. Yet the problems with the Games are undeniable as well.

The most blatant issue with the Games and the NHL's future participation is the sense from both the IIHF and the IOC that the free exposure the NHL seemingly gets from its participation is reason enough to stay, despite both the logistical problems

of shutting down the league for two weeks, along with the blunders of NBC. The IIHF and IOC's apparent opinion that they are doing the NHL a favour is evident.

While the IIHF may perceive itself as the biggest fish in the world of hockey, the fact is, and will remain to be, that the NHL is still king when it comes to the game. The high-handed approach that the IIHF has taken to negotiating with the NHL has done nothing but make an obvious decision for Bettman that much more drawn out. The fact of the matter is that both the Olympics and IIHF need the NHL as much, if not more than the NHL needs them.

As much as both sides want to think they're in the driver's seat, the reality of the matter is that neither side holds the keys to the NHL participating in Sochi — the numbers do. There's no question that if these Olympics deliver TV ratings south of the border — that is, if NBC gets its act together in time for the medal round — that the NHL will be back in 2014.

The free publicity for the NHL from the Olympics is unquestionable. With the hockey landscape shifting with the likes of the KHL stepping up to try and challenge, the NHL's stranglehold on the world's elite talent has at certain times been challenged. Having every top-tier nation's roster filled with NHLers is the best publicity the league could ever ask for, and that's something they can't walk away from despite the IIHF's arrogant posturing and NBC's blunders.



FILE PHOTO: DANIELLE JENSON

WAITING IT OUT The Pandas volleyball squad has to sit on the sidelines and watch the Canada West playoffs, as they wait for the CIS tournament field to be filled out.

sportsshots

Compiled by Evan Daum

Women's Volleyball

With the volleyball Pandas' Canada West postseason campaign over, they will now sit back and watch as the rest of the conference play down to see who will earn berths to nationals. The Pandas, who host the CIS National Championships March 5-7 at the Main Gym, will be joined by three other Canada West teams.

The conference final-four tournament goes this weekend in Winnipeg, where the Manitoba Bisons will play host to top-seeded UBC, Trinity Western — who defeated the Pandas last weekend in playoff action — and Regina. Manitoba will be hosting the four-team showdown in place of UBC, who would've hosted the event if not for the Winter Olympics, which

forced the tournament to be hosted by the second-highest remaining seed.

Men's Volleyball

Like the Pandas, the Bears aren't in action this weekend, as they prepare to host the Canada West final-four tournament next weekend at the Pavilion.

The Bears will be watching to see who emerges from the three conference series this weekend, as Manitoba heads to Calgary to take on the second-seed Dinos, Winnipeg travels to B.C. to take on Trinity Western, and Brandon plays host to Thompson Rivers.

Men's Hockey

The Golden Bears hockey squad has a bye this weekend after wrapping up their regular season schedule a week ago. Alberta now waits to see how the final regular season weekend of CW play will pan out, to see who they'll host in round one of the playoffs March 5-7 at Clare Drake Arena.

GFC COMMITTEES: STUDENTS NEEDED

The terms of office for students serving on **General Faculties Council (GFC)** Standing Committees, Appeal Boards and committees to which GFC elects members will expire on April 30, 2010. Undergraduate and graduate students (as noted) are encouraged to apply now to serve on any of the following committees for terms of office beginning May 1, 2010 and ending April 30, 2011. (Some students currently serving on these committees may be seeking re-election to serve additional terms.)

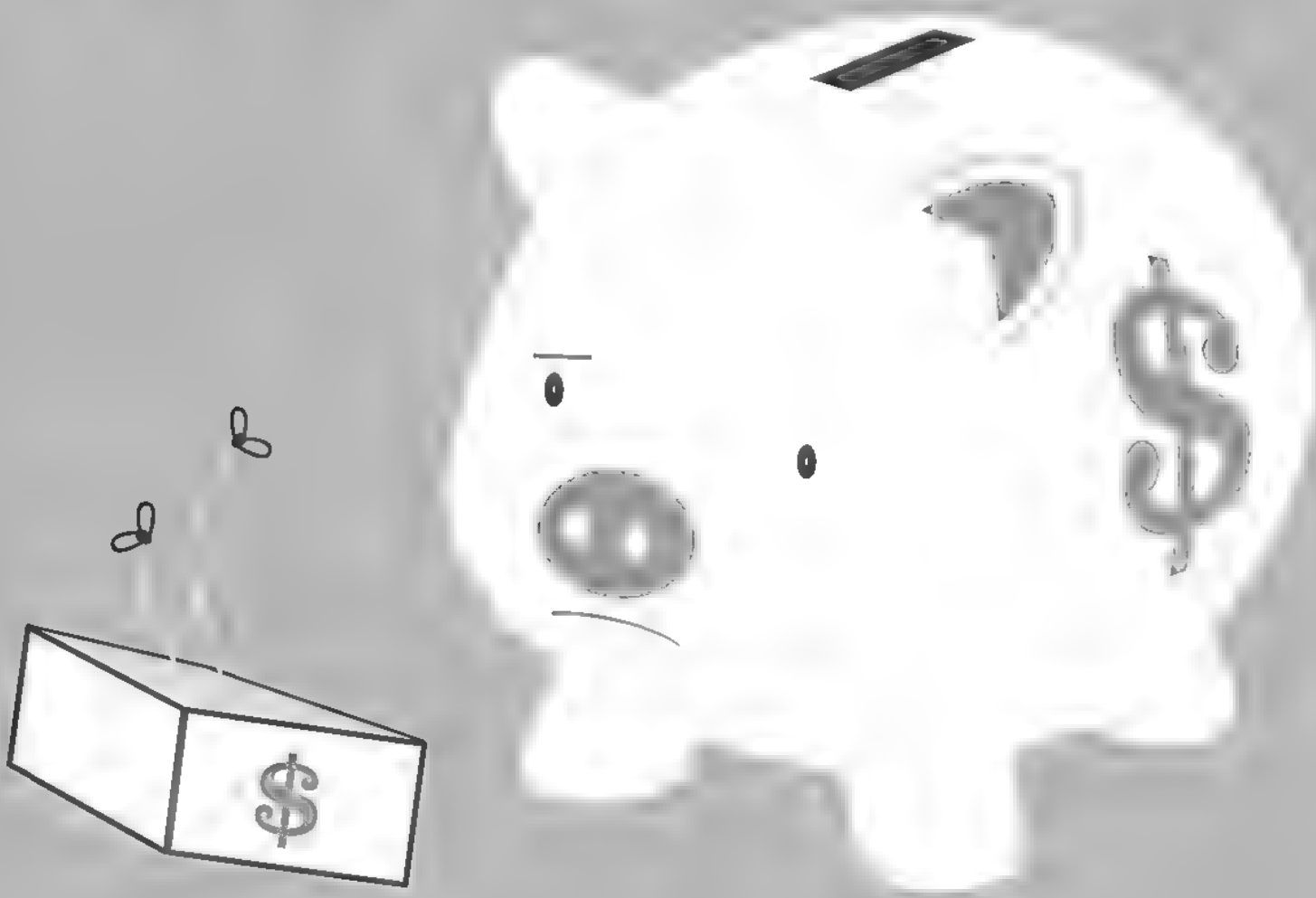
Committee	Student Vacancies	Meeting Times (monthly)
ACADEMIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (APC): GFC's senior committee dealing with academic, financial and planning issues.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / twice monthly, alternating Wednesdays
ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE (ASC): GFC committee dealing with admissions, academic standing, transfer and examination policies and other related issues.	ONE undergraduate	9:00 am / 3rd Thursday
CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE (CLRC): Reviews Code of Student Behaviour, Code of Applicant Behaviour and Residence Community Standards.	TWO students (undergraduate and/or graduate)	9:30 am / 4th Thursday
COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (CLE): Promotes an optimal learning environment in alignment with guiding documents of the University of Alberta.	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	2:00 pm / 1st Thursday
FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (FDC): Recommends on planning and use of facilities, proposed buildings, and parking and transportation facilities.	ONE undergraduate	1:30 pm / 4th Thursday
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (UASC): Approves new awards for undergraduate students including selection and eligibility criteria.	TWO undergraduates	2:00 pm / 2nd Tuesday
UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS COMMITTEE (UTAC): Adjudicates the Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the William Hardy Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award.	TWO undergraduates & ONE graduate	Normally three times a year (October, March and June)
GFC ACADEMIC APPEALS COMMITTEE (AAC) / UNIVERSITY APPEAL BOARD (UAB): AAC hears and decides student appeals regarding academic standing. UAB hears and decides student appeals and applicant appeals regarding disciplinary decisions made under the Code of Student Behaviour or Code of Applicant Behaviour.	AAC: THREE undergraduates & ONE graduate UAB: EIGHT undergraduates & THREE graduates	• Students will normally participate in 3 to 4 hearings per year. • Hearings are scheduled as needed Monday to Thursday; • Hearings normally start at 4:30 or 5:00 PM, and last 3 to 5 hours. Students should have flexible evening schedules two nights a week (including summer months).
COUNCIL ON STUDENT AFFAIRS (COSA): The aim of the Council is the betterment of the quality of student life at the University of Alberta. (Open only to current members of GFC.)	ONE undergraduate & ONE graduate	Afternoons/normally 3rd Monday (September to March)

Application forms and committee information are available on the University Governance website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/governance/index.cfm> or in Room 3-20 University Hall. Applications should be completed and returned to University Governance by **Monday, March 1, 2010**. For information regarding committee membership and terms of reference, students are invited to contact: Ms. Marlene Lewis, Coordinator to the GFC Nominating Committee (NC), at 780-492-1938, or by e-mail: marlene.lewis@ualberta.ca.

NOTE: There is ONE STUDENT VACANCY on the **GFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** for an undergraduate student who is a GFC member for the 2010-11 academic year. Expressions of interest for this position should be directed to Garry Bodnar (garry.bodnar@ualberta.ca), in his capacity as Secretary to the GFC Replenishment Committee, University Governance.



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FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

Can West track and field’s best head to town for conference championships

EVAN DAUM
Sports Editor

With snow on the ground outside, Canada West’s top track and field stars will converge this weekend for two days of competition at the Canada West Championships, as athletes look to heat up the Butterdome Pavilion in hopes of qualifying for nationals next month in Windsor, Ontario.

The Bears head into the meet not ranked inside the CIS top 10, while the Pandas enter ranked sixth in the nation. The women’s side has enjoyed a successful season while the men, conversely, have struggled at times to establish themselves.

“The guys have had some injuries and some other things, so our team is kind of depleted — we’re not going to be at the level I’d want us to be at, but the women have done really well. We’ve got some people who are going to be challenging for gold medals. Amanda Schneck in the pentathlon especially, who just set a school record at the last competition and is looking even better now than she did there, so I’m looking forward to seeing her performance,” U of A head coach Georgette Reed said.

Schneck, a fourth-year engineering student, set the school record in the pentathlon nearly two weeks ago at the Queen City Meet in Regina, where she accumulated 3,337 points to take first place in the event. A member of Team Alberta last year at the Canada Summer Games in Prince Edward Island, Schneck will head into the championships among the favourites to take home the gold, along with last year’s Canada West champion from

the wheat province.

“It’s between her and Chelsea Valois who’s the defending champion from the University of Regina, but I think Amanda has picked up a lot this year and is coming in off of a really strong summer and a really good year, so I think she’ll do well,” Reed explained.

Schneck will spearhead a strong contingent on the women’s side that’s among the deepest from top to bottom in years, featuring a cast of strong relay teams that Reed thinks are ready to punch their tickets to nationals.

“They got on our track and started cheering, and running around, and that was a good thing. Our guys finally took it to heart and realized that they needed to step up a bit, and they’ve stepped up huge.”

GEORGETTE REED
U OF A TRACK AND FIELD HEAD COACH

“We’re hoping to qualify our women’s 4 x 200m, 4 x 400m and 4 x 800m for CIS, which we haven’t done in years. So if we can do that, I think we’ll be well on our way to making things happen and it’s just a matter of people being there on the day and doing what they need to do,” Reed said.

While the women have enjoyed a

relatively steady, productive season, the Bears have been ravaged by injuries and roster shuffling as they head into the championships, looking to pull the pieces together in time to surpass last year’s total of two qualifiers for nationals.

“Unfortunately this has just been one of those years where things didn’t click. We looked really good at the start of the year and things just kind of fell apart,” Reed explained.

Of those on the men’s side that will be leaned on is middle-distance runner Wynand Nel.

“Definitely in leadership, there’s no doubt it will be Wynand Nel who’s our men’s team captain. He’s been fantastic. From the minute he came here in September, he came in and has been a leader the whole way through and has fulfilled the role of not only a captain, but also as a natural leader,” Reed said.

After watching both Saskatchewan and provincial rivals Calgary come into the Butterdome in January and have strong showings on the Bears and Pandas home track at the Golden Bear Open, Reed’s crew— especially a refocused group of Bears — will be out to improve their showing from the last time they competed at home.

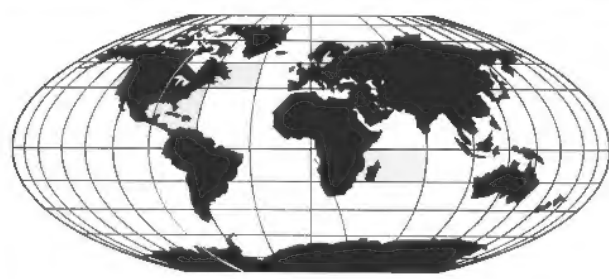
“They got on our track and started cheering and running around, and that was a good thing,” Reed said of the Huskies and Dinosaurs. “Our guys finally took it to heart and realized that they needed to step up a bit, and they’ve stepped up huge.”

The Bears and Pandas look to reach the podium and earn their spot to nationals this weekend at the Pavilion, with action going both Friday and Saturday.

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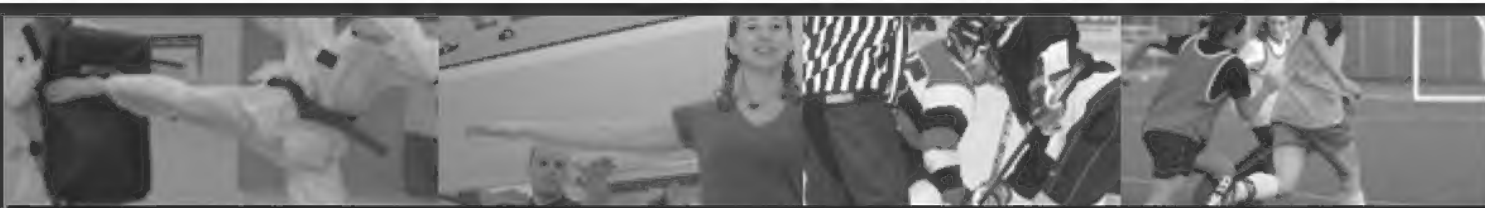
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Application forms may be obtained in the
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BY THE NUMBERS

7

Canada West schools competing at the conference championships, including powerhouse Saskatchewan.

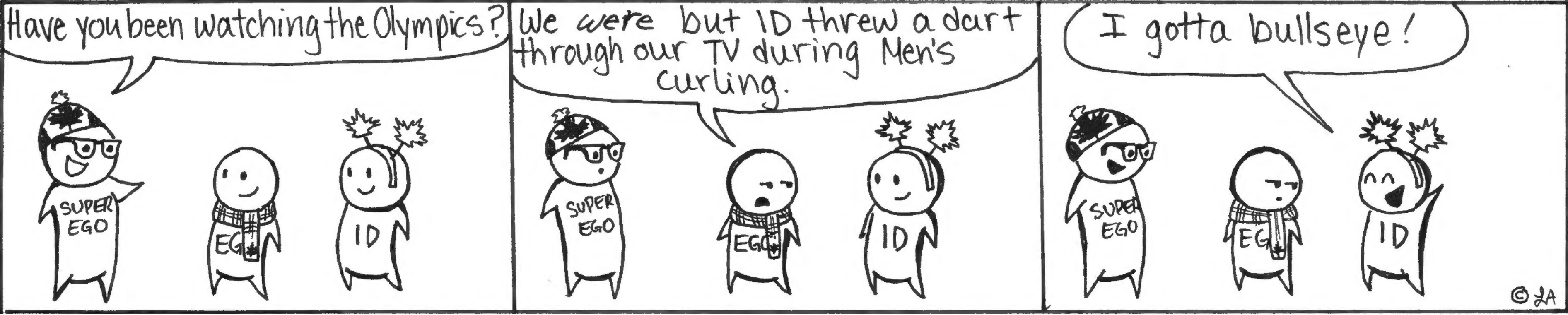
10

Number of U of A athletes that qualified for last year’s nationals — eight Pandas and two Bears made the trip.

32

Number of finals this weekend that will be contested over the course of the two-day event at the Pavilion.

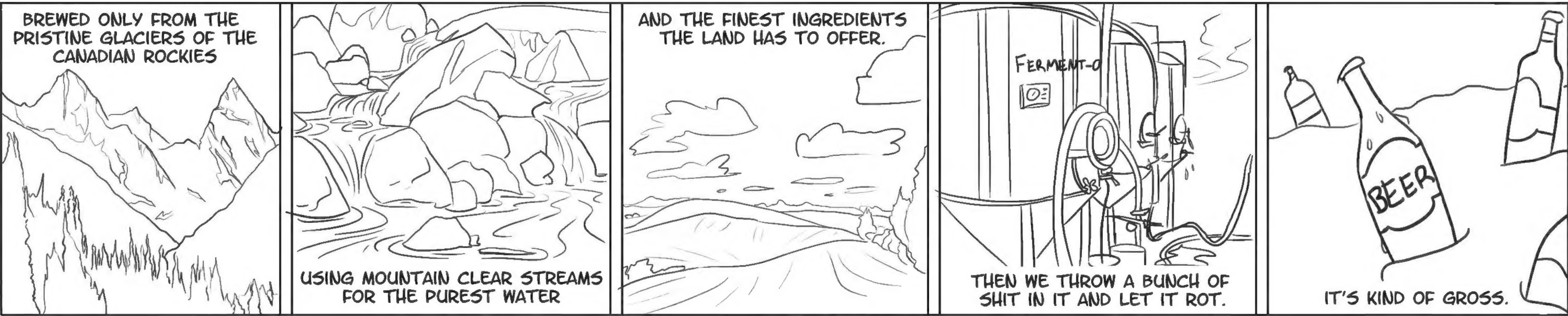
ID & EGO by Lauren Alston



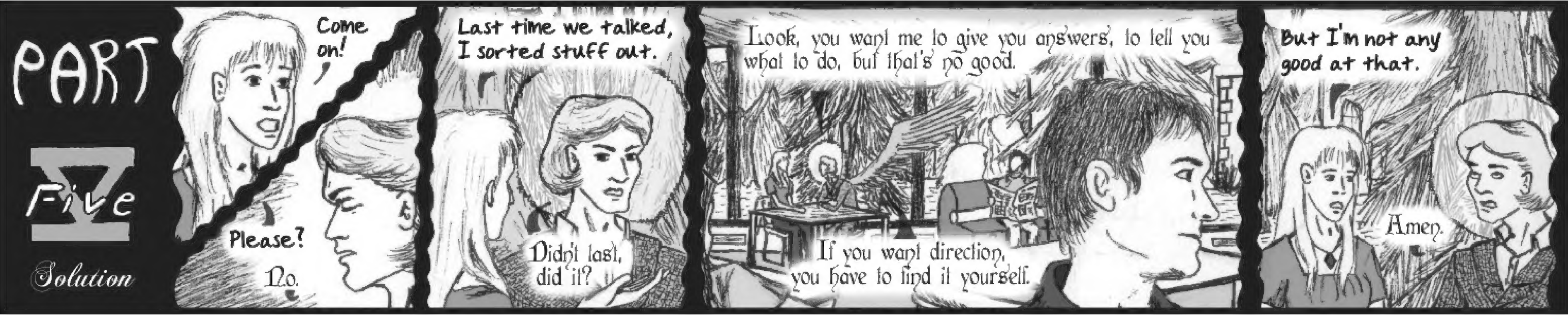
POP AND ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk



PEOPLE WATCHING by Faye Campbell



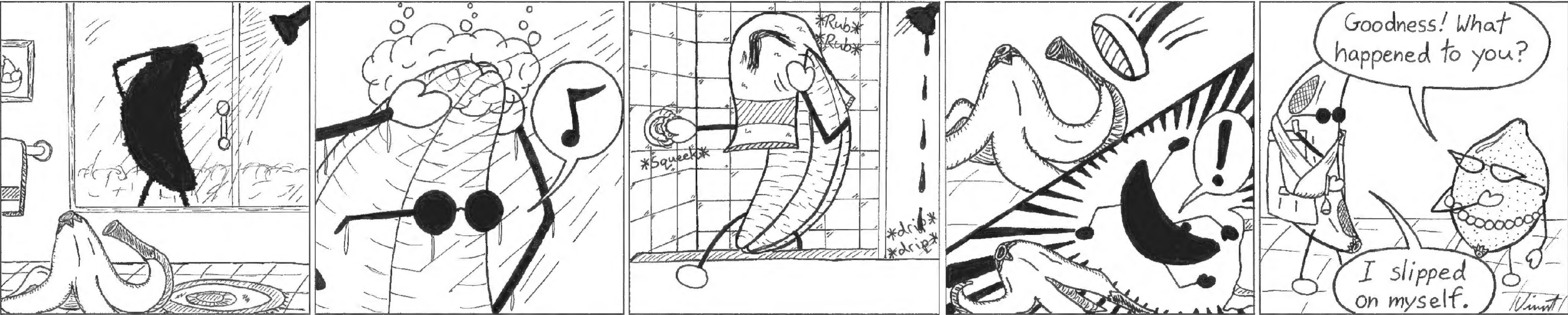
THE RESTLESS WICKED by Marie Gojmerac



BLACK RAINBOW by Jeff Cheng



DR BANANA by Ross Vincent



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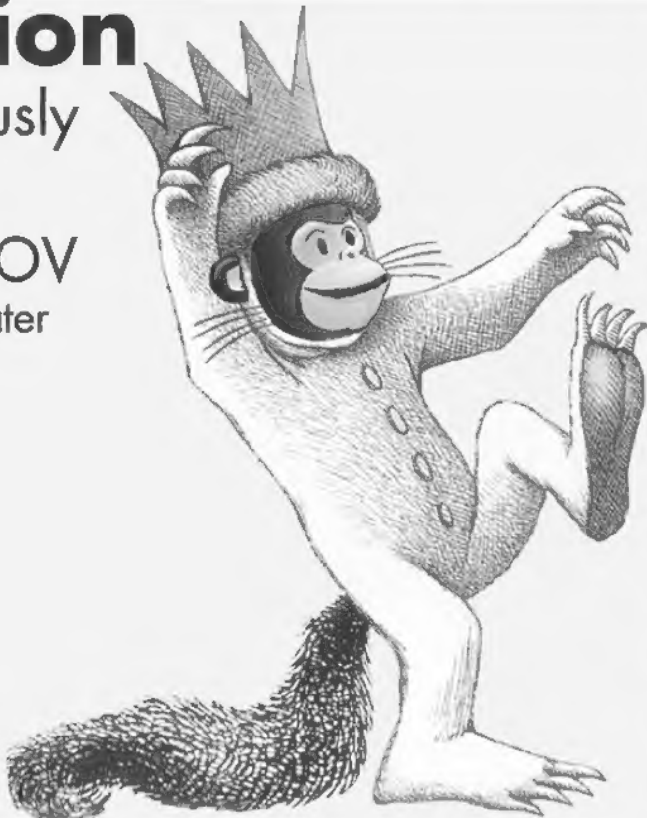
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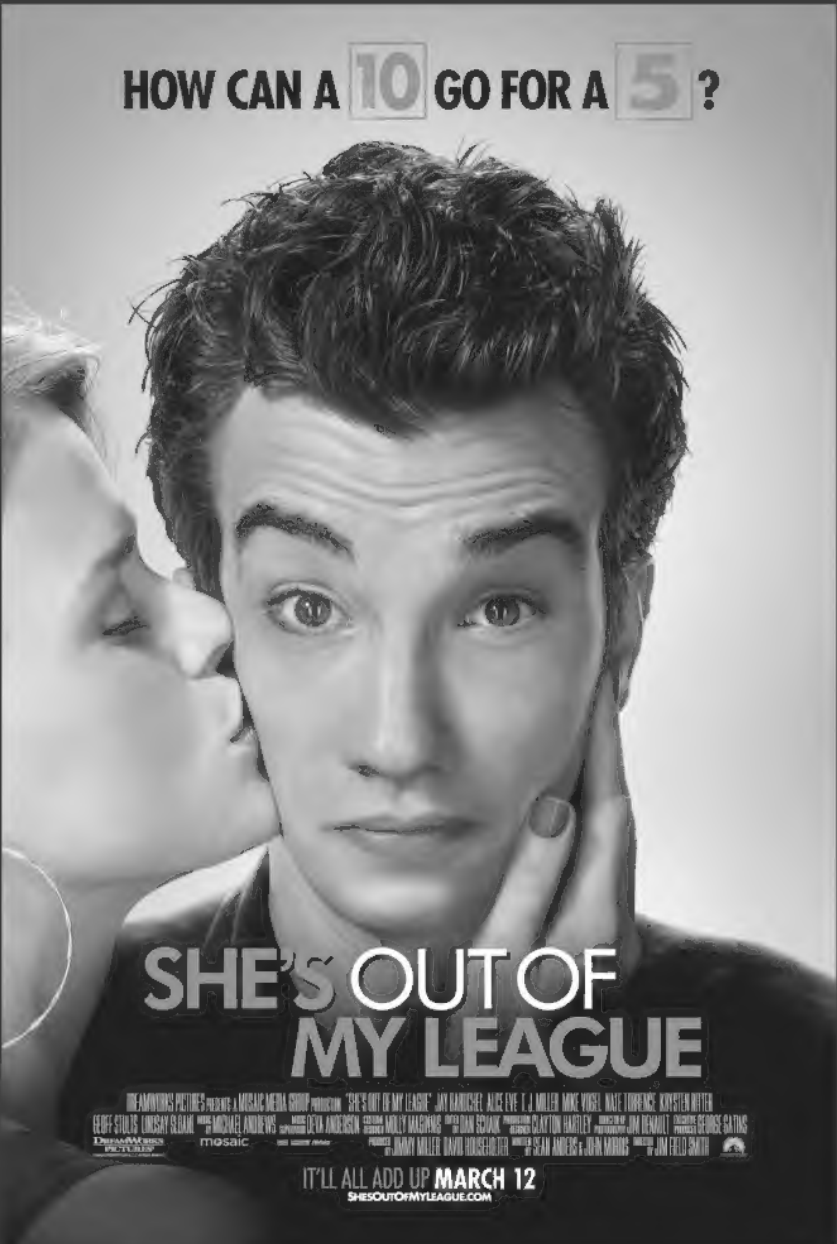
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astronowatch

by Kati Kovacs

I hope everyone had a wonderfully productive Reading Week. Ha! Just kidding. I used to be a student once too, you know. I'll amend that to say that I hope it wasn't too destructive. Hopefully some of you caught up on a little class work in between the drinking and parties.

I spent my Reading Week working in the mountains. I schmoozed with Nobel laureates, ate some amazing food, and drank overpriced beer. I even managed to do some star-gazing, if only for a few moments.

Speaking of stargazing, the planet Mars is still visible this month. If you look to the south-east at about 9 p.m. tonight, you'll see the moon. Just above it and to the left is the planet Mars. The two bright stars a bit higher up (one above the other) are Castor (lower) and Pollux (upper). These are the two brightest stars in the constellation of Gemini the Twins.

Congrats to the crew of the space shuttle Endeavor! They had a flawless landing this past Sunday at the Kennedy Space Center. The next shuttle launch is scheduled for April 5, and this time will be featuring the shuttle Discovery.

AstronoWatch is a weekly feature that covers the goings-on in the night skies, the galaxy, and sometimes even Kati's personal life. Keep up with Astronowatch online at thegatewayonline.ca/astronowatch or check out the FABservatory's site at www.phys.ualberta.ca/observatory

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